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I. INTRODUCTION

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Western Arctic National Parklands (WEAR) is the name given to four of the largest and most remote National Park Service (NPS) units in America: Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (BELA), Cape Krusenstern National Monument (CAKR), Kobuk Valley National Park (KOVA), and Noatak National Preserve (NOAT). These four parks straddle the Arctic Circle and encompass nearly 18,000 square miles – five times the size of Yellowstone National Park. They contain a diversity of Arctic and sub-Arctic landforms, wildlife, river basins, tundra, and cultural sites documenting 11,000 years of human occupancy. They provide opportunities for solitude and recreation and for local residents to hunt, fish, and maintain a subsistence way of life as an integral component of a dynamic and naturally evolving ecosystem.

> The Arctic is an acquired taste. Its scale, colors, landforms, and groundcover are so different from what most people are familiar with its astounding beauty is often overlooked. As the author Wallace Stegner said: "perceptions trained in another climate and another landscape have to be modified. You have to get over the color green; you have to quite associating beauty with gardens and lawns; you have to get used to an inhuman scale; you have to understand geological times."

Each of these four parks has separate enabling legislation and general management plans and reflects distinctive purposes, resources, and character. They are also part of a common landscape managed as one administrative unit with offices in Nome and Kotzebue. This Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) is actually four plans in one. It identifies a common strategy for interpreting these four areas in a way that unifies their commonality while recognizing their distinctiveness.

Interpreting these areas is a tremendous challenge. They are among the least known units in the entire national system of parks. There is not a single book in print about them. Most of their landscape is treeless tundra and is covered by ice and snow seven to eight months of the year. People hunt wildlife and set fishnets in the areas. To the casual observer, these parklands seem to lack the monumentalism of Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, or Giant Sequoias. The goals of WEAR's interpretive program are to communicate an understanding and appreciation of the national significance of these parks and their resources to the public. Effective interpretation helps people forge a personal connection with these parks and broadens public support for preserving them.

INTERPRETIVE PLANNING

This Long-Range Interpretative Plan presents a visitor experience vision for Western Arctic National Parklands based on purpose, significance, and mission goals identified in the park's Strategic Plan. The LRIP supplements general management plans and the strategic plan by articulating park themes, describing visitor experience objectives and proposing interpretation activities, services, media, and facilities for the parklands.

> The goal of interpretive planning is the development of cost-effective, tightly focused, high quality park interpretive programs that effectively address all audiences and achieve NPS and WEAR management goals.

The LRIP sets the interpretation direction for the parks during the next ten years. It is a conceptual plan that lays the foundation for the next phases of a comprehensive interpretive planning process – media planning, design and production, and the organization of staff and activities into annual interpretive plans.

The planning process facilitates participation of park staff, media specialists, interpretive partners and park neighbors in evaluating the park's interpretive program and in focusing interpretive efforts on Western Arctic National Parkland's significant resources, themes, and issues. This planning process is based upon a hierarchical system of goals beginning with the Organic Act of 1916, specific area legislation and a Statement of Management. The process then defines the "big picture" vision for the park, its resources, and public use. Goals that direct the planning process are rooted in a clear identification of the purpose and significance of the areas. Purpose, derived largely from the parks' legislation, defines why units were originally established and what their purpose is today. Significance statements describe the importance or distinctiveness of the area and its resources. Goal-driven team planning develops interpretive proposals to enhance opportunities for people to understand, enjoy, and appreciate the reasons for which the parks were established.

WEAR, because of its isolated location, legislative mandates and continued occupational use by park neighbors, the Inuit people, will require unique and non-traditional approaches to interpretive and educational programs to meet NPS and WEAR management policies.

II. WEAR BACKGROUND

Cape Krusenstern National Monument

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

In 1916, Congress created the National Park Service in the Department of the Interior to "promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as parks, monuments, and reservations, to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" (NPS Organic Act, 16 USD 1). Subsequent presidential proclamations and legislation added other areas and management guidance to the properties administered by the National Park Service.

The creation of many of the national park units in Alaska was the culmination of decades of land management decisions. Statehood, first proposed for Alaska in the early part of World War II, became a reality in 1958. The discovery of oil on the Arctic Slope brought the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA). In addition to granting significant lands to Alaska native groups, Congress directed federal agencies to evaluate federal lands for inclusion in National Park, national forest, and national wildlife refuge systems. This directive, issued in 1971, specified a period of five years for a suitability study and creation of conservation units. Studies began in 1973.

In December 1978, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the study areas in northwest Alaska as Bering Land Bridge, Cape Krusenstem, Kobuk Valley, and Noatak National Monuments to protect the lands from acquisition and development until Congress could complete debate and take action.

On December 2, 1980, President Carter signed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) into law. This legislation culminated nearly nine years of work by three presidential administrations and five sessions of Congress. Often called the most significant land conservation measure in the history of our nation, the statue protected over 100 million acres of federal lands in Alaska. It expanded the National Park System in Alaska by over 43 million acres. It increased the acreage of Glacier Bay, Denali, and Katmai, and created ten new NPS units, including Bering Land Bridge National Monument, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Monument, and Noatak National Monument.

Congress declared the purposes of the new and expanded ANILCA units in PL96-487:

> "to preserve for the benefit, use, education, and inspiration of present and future generations certain lands and waters in the State of Alaska that contain nationally significant natural, scenic, historic, archeological, geological, scientific, wilderness, cultural, recreational, and wildlife values."
>
> "to preserve unrivaled scenic and geological values associated with natural landscapes; to provide for the maintenance of sound populations of, and habitat for, wildlife species of inestimable value to the citizens of Alaska and the Nation, including those

species dependent on vast relatively undeveloped areas; to preserve in their natural state extensive unaltered arctic tundra, boreal forest, and coastal rainforest ecosystems, to protect the resources related to subsistence needs; to protect and preserve historic and archeological sites, rivers, and lands, and to preserve wilderness resource values and related recreational opportunities including but not limited to hiking, canoeing, fishing, and sport hunting, within large arctic and sub-arctic wild-lands and on free-flowing rivers; and to maintain opportunities for scientific research and undisturbed ecosystems."

"to protect the opportunity for rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to continue to do so consistent with management of fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized scientific principles and the purposes for which each conservation system unit is established, designated, or expanded by or pursuant to this Act."

SIGNIFICANCE

Western Arctic National Parklands

Western Arctic National Parklands and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are the only units of the National Park System north of the Arctic Circle. The four NPS units of WEAR preserve sweeping landscapes and a rich diversity of arctic and sub-arctic terrain features, landforms, and wildlife. Stretching 250 miles from the Bering and Chukchi Seas to the heart of the Brooks Range, the parklands include coastal lagoons, barrier islands, river valleys, arctic tundra, foothills, mountains, lava flow, sand dunes, and boreal forests. The parklands provide a patchwork of habitats, climate and geography, and support one of the most diverse communities of life in the entire Arctic. This diversity stems from the vast size of the parklands, 11.8 million acres, and multiple transition zones between the sea and the land, between Asia and North America, and between forest and tundra. The land is shaped by a climate of long, cold, and dark winters with snow cover and short-productive summers with long hours of daylight. Despite limited precipitation, many areas remain wet during the summer because of the impenetrable layer of permafrost that under lays most of the parklands. Although the northern tree line zigzags through parklands, tundra is the dominant plant community.

WEAR protects key range and migration routes for 500,000 caribou of the Western Arctic herd, reminiscent of the now-lost thunder of buffalo across America's Great Plains. The parklands are home to more than 170 species of birds, 9 marine mammal species, and 40 species of fish. Over 40 species of arctic mammals include polar bears, muskox, wolves, wolverine, moose, Arctic and red foxes, black bears, brown bears, and Dall sheep. Because these parks are glacier-free plains, and were for much of the Pleistocene, they contain scores of paleontology sites and thousands of archeological sites dating back over 11,000 years and representing the longest cultural sequence in the western hemisphere. Indigenous people continue to live and subsist on the land within and surrounding the four parks, helping to maintain cultural traditions many thousands of years old.

Western Arctic National Parklands is especially significant for the following:

- **Arctic Ecosystem: W**EAR protects a vast area, 11.8 million acres, encompassing a complete range of sub-arctic and arctic landscapes and natural diversity of arctic flora and fauna. Together with adjoining Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, it forms one of the largest protected areas on earth. The high latitude ecosystems are relatively simple, characterized by few species and high abundance. Changes are often more easily apparent and measurable in high latitude systems than those in temperature climates, and therefore, changes in high latitude systems may serve as excellent predictors of global climate change.

- **Native Alaskan Heritage: Twenty** communities in proximity to these four park units remain populated by over 85% Inupiaq people. These Inuit people are part of the natural ecosystem and their cultural vitality is dependent on the continuation of their relationship with and use of resources.

- **Wildlife:** WEAR provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife including overt 40 species of arctic mammals such as Dall sheep, muskox, wolves, grizzly, and polar bears. The parklands protect a portion of the migration corridor for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd that included nearly a half million animals in the late 1990s. During the summer, tens of thousands of migratory birds representing over 170 species converge from all seven continents to nest and feed in WEAR. The parklands provide some of the best opportunities in North America for viewing rare Asian birds.

- **Wilderness:** WEAR contains 5.8 million acres of designated wilderness and another 3.7 million acres of potential wilderness. Noatak National Preserve itself is the third largest wilderness area in the National Park System, and the Noatak River is the longest undeveloped, wild river in North America. By protecting such a large area for its wilderness character and values, WEAR provides opportunities for solitude, unconfined recreation, self-discovery, self-reliance, and a place where people can experience their relationship to the natural world.

- **Research:** The diversity and vastness of these four areas provides an opportunity for scientific study of arctic and sub-arctic natural processes on an ecosystem scale. Because WEAR was mostly un-glaciated at the end of the last ice age, portions of the parklands provide one of the best records of Pleistocene and Holocene plant and animal migrations as well as undisturbed archeological sites that document the peopling of the western hemisphere.

- **International:** Scientists consider northwest Alaska and the Russian state of Chukotka, which is less than 55 miles across the Bering Strait, to be a single ecological unit sharing a common natural and cultural heritage. The four NPS areas managed as WEAR are part of the Beringian Heritage International Program. That program seeks to conduct collaborative research, share information, and eventually join with a Russian conservation area as part of an international park. Noatak National Preserve has been designated an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in recognition of its international significance.

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

Bering Land Bridge National Monument was established by presidential proclamation in December 1978. The area was redesignated as Bering Land Bridge National Preserve by ANILCA in December 1980. ANILCA §201(2) specifically directs:

> "The preserve shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To protect and interpret examples of arctic plant communities, volcanic lava flows, ash explosions, coastal formations and other geologic processes; to protect habitat for internationally significant populations of migratory birds; to provide for archeological and paleontological study, in cooperation with Native Alaskans, of the process of plant and animal migration, including man, between North America and the Asian Continent, to protect habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, marine mammals brown/grizzly bears, moose and wolves; subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, to continue reindeer grazing use, including necessary facilities and equipment, within the areas which on January 1, 1976, were subject to reindeer grazing permits, in accordance with sound range management practices; to protect the viability of subsistence resources; and in a manner consistent with the foregoing, to provide for outdoor recreation and environmental education activities including public access for recreational purposes to the Serpentine Hot Springs area. The Secretary shall permit the continuation of customary patterns and modes of travel during periods of adequate snow cover within a one-hundred-foot right-of-way along either side of an existing route from Deering to the Taylor Highway, subject so such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may promulgate to assure that such travel is consistent with the foregoing purposes."

Although none of the preserve is currently designated as wilderness, wilderness suitability studies have determined that 80% of the area is eligible for wilderness designation.

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve straddles the Arctic Circle. The northernmost portion of the preserve is marked by the world's largest volcanic explosive seam vents, or maar craters, and by lakes and marshes formed by frost effects. The broad coastal plain rises from barrier islands to ancient granite, limestone, and schist formations. More recent landscape features include the aftermath of more than two million years of volcanism and glacial activity. A rugged arc of fault-thrust mountains rising to 3283 feet marks the southern boundary.

Bering Land Bridge lies at the heart of what was a broad land corridor connecting Asia with North America during past ice ages. When this "land bridge" was exposed by lowered sea levels, it presented a migration corridor for many species of animals, birds, and plants between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Species that evolved in Eurasia crossed to North America and vice versa. Anthropologists believe that humans entered the Americas from Asia the last time this corridor was revealed more than 12,000 years ago. Volcanic eruptions that occurred while the land bridge was last exposed have preserved ice-age landscapes in remarkable detail.

This land is a treasure for archaeologists. Trail Creek Caves preserve evidence of hunters' use of this land more than 10,000 years ago. Evidence from Serpentine Hot Springs indicates use of this important cultural site as long as 6,000 years ago. Beach ridges at Cape Espenberg preserve evidence of several thousand years of human occupation distributed horizontally across the land. Many of the early contacts between European explorers and Alaskan Inuit took place here. It was on lands now protected in the preserve that reindeer herds grew to create wealth for their owners.

The natural resources of the preserve are truly unique. Volcanic activity has created thousands of acres of geologically recent features. The land itself is a fragment of a continental tectonic plate that is significantly different from most of Alaska. This geologic landscape supports a virtually complete sequence of tundra types found in the American Arctic. Birds migrate here from all seven continents, following routes established during the Wisconsin Ice Age only 12,000 to 25,000 years ago. Caribou, moose, and muskox now graze and browse areas used by mammoths, camels, and bison when most of the northern world was buried in ice. Hundreds of flowering plants, lichens, fungi, and mosses provide land cover that rarely grows taller than five or six feet.

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve offers today's visitors opportunities to experience wilderness solitude or enjoy mystical landscapes where granite spires reach into clouds and scalding water flows from the ground. Sport hunting and trapping is allowed, although most wildlife harvest is done by the Inuit people as allowed by ANILCA.

Cape Krusenstern National Monument

Cape Krusenstern National Monument was protected as a national monument by presidential proclamation in 1978 and designated a national monument by ANILCA in 1980. ANILCA §201(6) specifically directs:

> " The monument shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To protect and interpret a series of archeological sites depicting every known culture period in arctic Alaska; to provide for scientific study of the process of human population of the area from the Asian Continent; in cooperation with Native Alaskans, to preserve and interpret evidence of prehistoric and historic Native cultures; to protect habitat for seals and other marine mammals; to protect habitat for and populations of birds, and other wildlife, and fish resources; and to protect the viability of subsistence resources. Subsistence uses by local residents shall be permitted in the monument in accordance with the provisions of Title VIII [of ANILCA]."

No wilderness was designated by ANILCA. The suitability of wilderness designation for all or part of CAKR has since been reviewed, and the NPS recommendation for designation of wilderness in CAKR has been submitted to Washington, D.C. for review.

Cape Krusenstern National Monument is entirely north of the Arctic Circle. A coastal plain dotted with sizable lagoons characterizes its 659,807 acres of land and water and backed by gently rolling, limestone hills. On the east, the coast meets an ancient sea cliff now mantled with tundra and blue-gray limestone rubble. Mount Noak in the southeast portion of the monument is the highest point (elevation 2,010-ft.).

Cape Krusenstern contains a succession of 114 marine beach ridges that record the major cultural periods of the Arctic over the last 4,500 years. These east-west beaches formed of gravel deposited by major storms and regular wind and wave action. As one beach ridge was deposited in front of another, up to three miles of beach was built oceanward along a nine-mile beachfront. The prehistoric inhabitants of northwest Alaska occupied these beaches seasonally to hunt marine mammals. As new beach ridges were formed, camps were made on the ridges closest to the water. Over the centuries, a chronological "horizontal stratigraphy" was laid down. The oldest cultural remains are found on the fossil beach ridge furthest from the ocean; more recent remains and modern camps are found on beach ridges closer to the water.

More than 200 archeological sites have been unearthed at Cape Krusenstern. The dwellings, caches, camps and burial sites, all rich with artifacts, reveal the sequence in cultures that developed in response to changing conditions over the past 4,500 years. Immediately behind the active shoreline at Cape Krusenstern, the first eight beach ridges contain evidence of the presence of modern to late prehistoric Inuit dating back to about 600 years ago. Beaches 9 through 44, dating back to about 1,000 to 2,400 years ago, contain in sequence, remains of campsites, house ruins and artifacts of the Western Thule, Birnirk, Ipiutak, and Norton cultures. Cape Krusenstern's proximity to Russia made it a trade and cultural exchange point. It contains the birthplace of the Thule Inuit culture that spread some 8,000 miles from the shores of the Bering Sea all the way to Greenland. The discoveries made at Cape Krusenstern, especially when used in conjunction with those at Onion Portage in Kobuk Valley National Park, provide a definite, datable outline of cultural succession and development in northwest Alaska.

Because Cape Krusenstern is one of the most important archeological sites in the Arctic, it has been listed as an "Archeological District" in the National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark in the United States.

The broad plain separating the Igichuk Hills of the south from the Mulgrave Hills in the north is the tundra-covered bed of an Illinoisan glacier formed 250,000 years ago and the former course of the Noatak River. Frost polygons, thermo karst lakes and ice lenses, phenomena associated with permafrost ground are found in the monument.

The monument protects virtually unaltered habitats and a variety of wildlife including caribou, brown bear, moose, wolf, red and arctic fox, wolverine, nesting raptors, and significant populations of waterfowl and shorebirds. Cape Krusenstern is one of only two NPS units visited by polar bear. It also supports muskoxen and Dall sheep populations.

Exploration and use of Cape Krusenstern area by people of western civilization was preceded by more than 150 years of trade and contact along the coast of northwest Alaska. Russian trade goods reached people of the Kotzebue Sound through extensive trade ties across the Bering Strait between the native people of eastern Siberia and those of northeastern Alaska. The traditional societies of northwest Alaska were drastically impacted by sustained Euro-American contact.

The present coastline in the monument is the focus of subsistence activities of people from Kotzebue, Noatak, and Kivalina. Inupiaq people hunt five species of seals, Beluga and occasional Gray whales, and an occasional polar bear. Local residents also pick plants and berries, fish, and hunt for caribou, moose and spring and fall waterfowl, and other subsistence species.

Kobuk Valley National Park

Kobuk Valley was established as a national monument by presidential proclamation in 1978 and re-designated a national park by ANILCA in 1980. ANILCA §201(6) specifically directs:

> "Kobuk Valley National Park shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To maintain the environment integrity of the natural features of the Kobuk River Valley, including the Kobuk, Salmon, and other rivers, the boreal forest, and the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, in an undeveloped state, to protect and interpret, in cooperation with Native Alaskans, archaeological sites associated with Native cultures; to protect migration routes for the Arctic caribou herd; to protect habitat for, and population of, fish and wildlife, including but not limited to, caribou, moose, black and grizzly bears, wolves and waterfowl, and to protect the viability of subsistence resources. Subsistence uses by local residents shall be permitted in the park in accordance with the provisions of title VIII."

Approximately 190,000 acres of KOVA were designated wilderness by ANILCA. Included in the wilderness areas are the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes. This wilderness is contiguous with a wilderness area in Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.

The park contains approximately 1,726,500 acres of federal land. Mountains mostly encircle Kobuk Valley NP and much of its boundary follows the ridgelines.

Lying entirely north of the Arctic Circle, the ground is permanently frozen below much of the park. This impermeable "permafrost" layer prevents drainage and causes many surface areas to remain wet during the summer. Trees approach their northern limit in Kobuk Valley, where boreal forest and tundra meet. All plants that grow in the arctic must be specially adapted to survive fierce winds, biting cold, thin soils, and a short growing season. The northern tree line zigzags through the valleys of the Brooks Range and along the Kobuk River. Spruce, willow,

and birch trees are found along rivers and streams, on many south-facing hills, and where drainage is good and permafrost is lacking.

Sand created by the grinding of ancient glaciers has been carried down the Kobuk Valley by winds and waters to form the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes and the Little Kobuk Sand Dunes. These dunes are the most northern active dune fields in the world and contain dunes over 200 feet high.

The largest caribou herd in Alaska, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, passes through the Kobuk Valley every spring and fall on their migration. In the spring, caribou head north following passes through the Waring Mountains and across the frozen Kobuk River on their way to calving grounds on the coastal plain of the Arctic Ocean. In the fall, they head south to their wintering grounds south of the parklands. In places thousands of caribou follow regular paths that may be seen from the ground and air.

The Kobuk Valley was an un-glaciated pathway from the Bering Sea coast to the interior of Alaska used by indigenous people for at least 9,000 years. Hundreds of prehistoric villages, campsites, and other archeological sites are dispersed throughout the valley. One of the most significant sites in the Arctic, Onion Portage on the Kobuk River, is listed a National Historic Landmark and on the National Register of Historic Places. For at least 9,000 years, indigenous hunters have waited at Onion Portage to harvest caribou as they crossed the river on their fall migration. Onion Portage today remains an important caribou-hunting site in the region. Every summer Inupiat people set up fish camps along the Kobuk River to net salmon, whitefish, and sheefish. Local people continue to depend on the resources of the Kobuk Valley for their physical, economic, and spiritual well being.

Five major river systems enter the Kobuk River from the north draining the south slopes of the Baird Mountains through long, deep, gradually sloped valleys. During the summer months, water from these rivers is cold, fast moving, and clear except after major storms. In recognition of its wildness and special features, the Solmon River has been designated a wild river in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Kobuk Valley was a refugia during ice ages and today supports a diverse assemblage of arctic and sub-arctic lichen, mosses, grasses, flowering plants, and trees. Numerous rare plants include the Kobuk locoweed. *Oxytropis kopukensis*, found on the sandy soils of Kobuk Valley Sand Dunes and nowhere else on earth. These communities provide habitat for nesting waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and upland birds, brown and grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx, red and Arctic fox, muskox, and moose.

Kobuk Valley offers an opportunity for hiking, floating rivers, and winter trekking in a remote wilderness setting. It is currently the least visited national park in the entire National Park System.

Noatak National Preserve

Noatak National Preserve was established as a national monument by presidential proclamation in 1978 and re-designated a national preserve by ANILCA in 1980. ANILCA §201(6) specifically directs:

> "The preserve shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To maintain the environmental integrity of the Noatak River and adjacent uplands within the preserve in such a manner as to assure the continuation of geological and biological processes unimpaired by adverse human activity; to protect habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife, including but not limited to caribou, grizzly bears, Dall sheep, moose, wolves, and for waterfowl, raptors, and other species of birds; to protect archeological resources; and in a manner consistent with the foregoing, to provide opportunities for scientific research. The Secretary may establish a board consisting of scientists and other experts in the field of arctic research in order to assist him in the encouragement and administration of research efforts within the preserve."

Sections 601 and 605 of ANILCA designated the Noatak River from its source in Gates of the Arctic National Park to its confluence with the Kelly River in the Noatak National Preserve to be administered as a wild river in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Approximately 90% of NOAT, 5.8 million acres, were designated wilderness under NILCA. NOAT is the forth-largest wilderness in the national wilderness system and the largest with an indigenous name.
The entire preserve lies north of the Arctic Circle. Together with Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, NOAT protects nearly all the southern slopes of the Brooks Range within federal conservation unit.

The Noatak is the largest mountain-ringed river basin in America virtually unaffected by human activities. WEAR protects almost all of the Noatak River as it flows for 396 miles from deep within the Brooks Range to the Chukchi Sea. It offers one of the longest wilderness trips in North America.

The preserve lies in a transition zone between the northern coniferous forests and the tundra biomes of North America. The Baird and Delong Mountains of the Brooks Range almost completely enclose it. The basin contains most types of arctic habitat as well as one of the finest arrays of flora and fauna anywhere in the Arctic.

Noatak also supports nesting shorebirds, raptors and upland birds, brown and grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx, red and Arctic fox, muskox, and moose. It provides critical habitat for one of the most northern populations of Dall sheep in the world.

Archeological resources provide evidence of human occupation in the Noatak Valley over the past 11,000 years. Thousands of undisturbed cultural sites are located throughout the preserve.

The Noatak basin provides an outstanding resource for scientific research, environmental education, and subsistence and recreational opportunities.

Today's contemporary Inupiat people continue to hunt and gather subsistence resources in NOAT. Use of these lands is important in their struggle to maintain their physical and spiritual kinship with the land in the face of the overwhelming influence of technology and cash economy.

Noatak is one of the least disturbed natural ecosystems in the world. It is one of the few NPS units with the designated purpose of providing opportunities for scientific research. The international importance of the Noatak basin was recognized through designation as a biosphere reserve in the United Nations' Man and the Biosphere program.

MANAGEMENT GOALS AND ISSUES

The role of NPS interpretation and education is succinctly stated in the 2001 NPS Management Policies, Chapter 7: Interpretation and Education.

> Through interpretive and educational programs, the National Park Service will instill in park visitors an understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the significance of parks and their resources. Interpretive and educational programs will encourage the development of a personal stewardship ethic, and broaden public support for preserving park resources.
>
> The purpose of National Park Service interpretive and educational programs is to provide memorable educational and recreational experiences, and to foster the development of a personal stewardship ethic. The Service's programs will do this by forging a connection between park resources, visitors, the community, and park management. Programs will be successful when they use the right combination of original objects and places, firsthand experience, and effective media.

WEAR's interpretive services and facilities will be developed and operated in accordance with the NPS Organic Act and ANILCA, and in the four parks General Management Plan, Strategic Plan, Resource Management Plan, and Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP). All services and facilities will be directed toward achieving WEAR's mission.

> Western Arctic National Parklands provides an opportunity for people to maintain a subsistence way of life as an integral component of the dynamic and natural evolving ecosystem. We provide for public use in a natural and undeveloped setting that includes backcountry hiking, camping, boating, fishing, winter travel, subsistence hunting and gathering, and, in the two preserves, sport hunting and trapping. We work cooperatively with local Inupiat people to protect and interpret historic and prehistoric cultural sites and resources and to enable them to maintain their direct connection to and dependence on the land and resources that date back thousands of years. We strive to provide excellent public service and to inspire the public to join us as partners in the perpetuation of park resources and values.

In accordance with Director's Order #6 and Reference Manual 6, WEAR's interpretive and educational program will be grounded in:

- Park resources
- Themes related to the park's legislative history and significance
- Park and Servicewide mission goals.

WEAR's interpretive and educational program will offer visitors a variety of opportunities to gain understanding and appreciation of park sites and the values they represent. Opportunities

will provide knowledge of park resources and the care needed to protect them, and will allow visitors to participate in recreational activities or dialogue about park resources.

Enjoyment of the park and their resources is a fundamental part of visitor experience. That experience is heightened when it progresses from enjoyment to understanding of the reasons for a park's existence and the significance of its resources. In order to quantify the visitor experience, and in compliance with GRPA, the levels of visitor satisfaction, safety, understanding, and appreciation will be measured.

The intent is to provide each visitor with an interpretive experience that is enjoyable and inspirational within the context of the park's tangible resources and the values they represent. In addition, visitors will be made aware of the purposes and scope of the National Park System. Interpretation will encourage dialogue and accept that visitors have their individual points of view. Factual information presented will be current, accurate, based on current scholarship and science, and delivered so as to convey park meanings with the understanding that audience members will draw their own conclusions. Interpretation will reach out to park neighbors and community decision-makers to stimulate discussions about the park and its values in local, regional, and national contexts. In addition, interpretive services will help park employees better understand park's history, resources, processes, and visitors.

WEAR's interpretive and education program will be based on its Comprehensive Interpretive Plan which consists of this long-range interpretive plan, an annual interpretive plan, and an interpretive database as defined in DO-6 and RM-6. The WEAR CIP forms the overall long-term vision and basis for decisions about interpretive and educational programs in the park. It will balance in-park and outreach interpretive services utilizing a variety of tools, such as personal services, publications, exhibits, and audiovisual presentations.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Interpretive themes describe those ideas, concepts, or messages about Western Arctic National Parklands that are so important that all visitors should understand them. Based on the site's purpose and significance, themes provide guidelines for making decisions concerning which interpretive stories will be told to visitors and what interpretive facilities and activities will be required to tell those stories. Primary themes do not include everything that may be interpreted, but they include those ideas that are critical to understanding the significance of the parklands. All interpretive efforts (both media and personal service) will relate to one or more of the themes, and each theme shall be addressed by some part of the interpretive program. Visitors, residents, and park staff can share many stories and topics that enhance understanding of the primary themes.

> Interpretive themes are ideas, concepts, or stories that are central to a park's purpose, identity, and visitor experience. Themes provide the framework and backbone of a park's interpretive program, and every visitor should have easy access to them. They provide direction for planners and for designers of exhibits, publications, and audiovisual and personal programs. They also enter into considerations about facilities and carrying capacity.

Arctic Ecosystem: Always Changing

Western Arctic National Parklands preserves a dynamic, vast and sweeping landscape of Arctic and sub-Arctic terrain features, landforms, and wildlife. Most of WEAR lies above the Arctic Circle in the "land of the midnight surf," where short summers of 24-hour sunshine are contrasted by long, dark winters. This arctic climate influences the land and life in ways unknown at other latitudes. Natural and cultural resources affirm life's evolving adaptation to and interaction within this dramatic landscape. The plants and animals that inhabit this northern junction between Asia and North America are well adapted to the arctic and able to withstand a range of extreme environmental conditions. Some species are at the northern limit of their range. Many depend on the parklands undisturbed character. WEAR resources include: a continuum of evolving arctic plant and animal communities; signs of past volcanic activity; a coastline subject to the influence of wind, sea, and ice; habitat for migratory birds and arctic wildlife; free-flowing rivers, mountains, forest and tundra unspoiled by development, and a known archeological record spanning 11,000 years.

WEAR stands at the dramatic focal point of one of the worlds great crossroads of continents. Over the past 20 million years, a broad continental plain, known as Beringia, has at times linked the heartland of Alaska with East Asia. At other times, such as now, a narrow ocean waterway divides the continents. WEAR spans this crossroads, protecting the history of the distribution of marine and terrestrial life (including human) throughout the western and northern hemispheres.

High latitude ecosystems are relatively simple, characterized by few species and high abundance. Changes are often more easily apparent measurable than those in temperate climates. Therefore, changes in high latitude system may serve as excellent predictors of global climate change. WEAR provides a laboratory and classroom in which to study these ecosystem fluctuations as well as to teach conservation, preservation, and stewardship.

Past Cultures

People have been an integral and continuous part of Northwest Alaska natural ecosystems for the past 12,000 years. The Arctic was the last and most extreme habitat on earth to be occupied by humans. People had to endure the extreme climate with almost no wood available for shelter, warmth, and cooking. For food they were forced to search for a few edible plants and rely on nomadic, migratory animal populations that fluctuate wildly in population. The human population was never large. They lived a migratory lifestyle consistent with the animal populations they relied on. Thousands of archeological sites throughout WEAR are a national treasure that contain the material remains of every past culture living here over the past 12,000 years - from the first Alaskans who hunted large ice age mammals that are now extinct to the Inuit of today. These cultural sites contain the keys to understanding old and sometimes forgotten cultures. Archeologists, working together with the descendants of the people that left those remains behind, are piecing together a better understanding of past cultures and life ways.

Inuit people illustrate adaptations to an arctic environment. The artifacts, timbers, and hearths unearthed by archeologists from ancient dwellings at Onion Portage and the 114 beach ridges of Cape Krusenstern reveal 9,000 years of human presence in the Arctic. They reveal a sequence of cultures that developed in response to changing conditions. Innovations - kayaks, skin boats, seine nets, bows and arrows, wooden or bone sleds, and snow goggles - that people developed over time allowed further travel on ice and snow to better harvest resources. Inuit people are renowned throughout the world for successfully adapting to an environment of long and often lean winters, a limited number of edible plants, and mammal, bird and fish species that are seasonally migratory and fluctuate in population. Inuit people continue to adapt to new technology and cultures as evidenced by their involvement in the region's growing commercial industries.

Change has accelerated during the past two centuries. Vitus Bering first sailed into the northwest Alaska area in 1728. By the 1950s, exploration by Russian, English, and American groups had brought the whaling industry, firearms, alcohol, and tobacco to the region. The American purchase of Alaska in 1867 brought missionaries, formal education, the reindeer industry, and new technology to northwest Alaska. Traditional lifestyles were further changed by the 1899 Nome gold rush and influx of large numbers of miners exploring for gold and precious metals. Change was accelerated by the World War II military build-up, lend-lease shuttling aircraft to Russia, and formation of the Alaska Territorial Guard. Rapid changes continued in the past-war with installation of Cold War early-radar sites, proposed atomic testing, growth of Kotzebue and Nome as regional hubs, improvement of telecommunications,

initiation of daily commercial air travel, and development of the largest lead/zinc mine in the world.

People on the Landscape

Local residents depend on the use of WEAR resources as the foundation of their subsistence way of life. Over 85% of the population of the twenty communities surrounding WEAR are Inuit. Long-term traditions have resulted in distinctive ways of living with social, economic, and spiritual links deeply interwoven with the environment. The cultural heritage embodied in the continuous presence of people on the landscape is a national cultural treasure. The harvesting, processing, distribution, and consumption of resources within family and other social units provide physical and spiritual nourishment and a source of identity and social cohesion. Subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering is allowed in WEAR consistent with maintaining natural and healthy populations of the fish, wildlife, and other biological resources in a dynamic natural ecosystem. In order to accomplish that goal, WEAR attempts to integrate traditional ecological knowledge with western science to make cooperative resource management decisions related to allocation and harvest issues.

Conservation on a Landscape Scale

WEAR protects an 11.8 million acre landscape, part of a framework for protecting Alaska's diverse and unique wild lands including significant portions of the Brooks Range. The parklands protect the ecosystem integrity of northwest Alaska's natural processes including the unhampered evolution of wildlife populations and humans in the role of a natural resource consumer. The parklands provide a baseline of normal processes for natural arctic ecosystems helpful for monitoring ongoing change in the arctic environment. By increasing awareness of the consequences of human actions, WEAR fosters the stewardship of these rare and magnificent parklands. WEAR strives to provide excellent public service and to inspire cooperative perpetuation of park resources and values unimpaired for future generations.

WEAR is a major component of contiguous protected arctic lands serving as a giant laboratory for research of global significance. A large portion of WEAR lands has been designated as an International Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations' Man and the Biosphere Program. Conservation of the biological diversity of arctic flora and fauna and protection of arctic ecosystems from human-caused threats is an objective of WEAR and cooperative agencies. Pollutants know no national boundaries and are transported by the atmosphere, ocean currents, and migrating animals. The United States and Russia work cooperatively to share scientific information and promote the establishment of an international park protecting resources on both sides of the Bering Strait and Arctic Ocean.

A Living Wilderness

Noatak, Bering Land Bridge, Kobuk Valley, and Cape Krusenstern are among the largest, the wildest, and the most free from human influences and intrusions of all National Park Service units. These parklands are part of a National Wilderness Preservation System established by Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. They are, according to the Wilderness Act, "recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Wilderness is a distinct and treasured resource and a reservoir of biological diversity and natural ecological and evolutionary processes. It is a place not controlled by humans, where natural ecosystem processes operate freely and where its primeval character and influence are retained. WEAR is a place for people to visit, hunt, gather subsistence resources, and enjoy without occupying or modifying the land.

Indigenous people have used the WEAR wilderness and lived compatibly with nature for millennia. The continuation of subsistence hunting and gathering in WEAR wilderness is essential to Native peoples' physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence. Wilderness places constraints on man and his technology and protects a wild, naturally functioning ecosystem needed to sustain arctic wildlife populations and the natural resources necessary for future generations to maintain subsistence harvest and their traditional connection to the land.

National Park Service

> The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.
>
> - NPS Mission Statement

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, and Noatak National Preserve for four units of the National Park System of some 384 units. Each of these units, though distinct in character, is united through inter-related purposes and resources into one system of national parks as cumulative expressions of a single national heritage. Each site represents some nationally significant aspect of our natural or cultural heritage. Individually and collectively, these areas derive increased national dignity and recognition of their superlative environmental quality through their inclusion jointly in one National Park System preserved and managed for the benefit and inspiration of all the people of the United States. As the physical remnants of our past and great scenic and natural places that continue to evolve - repositories of outstanding recreation opportunities; classrooms of our heritage; legacy we leave to future generations - they warrant the highest standard of protection.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE GOALS

Visitor experience is what users take from a park including everything they do, feel, sense, think, and learn. Good visitor experiences increase knowledge, enhance positive attitudes, and improve behaviors. Parkland experiences are affected by experiences prior to the visit and affect other visitor experiences after the visit. Visitor experience objectives describe desired ends or visions for the park future to be achieved through planning, design, development, and operation.

The following visitor experience objectives describe physical, intellectual, and emotional experiences that will be facilitated by Long-Range Interpretive Plan proposals for resources, facilities, and interpretive media.

Visitors and Residents will have the opportunity to:

- Receive current, accurate, balanced information related to park themes and stories to the depth that they choose and through a variety of media.

- Understand the strong overlap between National Park Service values and goals and the values and goals of the local community.

- Participate in a variety of technical learning opportunities that provide skills necessary for safe and minimum impact use of fragile arctic lands.

- Participate in a variety of active and inactive, safe, non-damaging activities ranging from social activities in villages and towns to solitude in the parklands; understand the requirement for self-reliance that arctic wilderness demands.

- Understand the economic, environmental, recreational, and social effects of Western Arctic Parklands on the region surrounding the park and be inspired to wisely use, develop, and preserve natural and cultural resources in the future in their own sphere of influence.

- Experience current and historic lifestyles of the Arctic through presentations and programs and compare those lifestyles with other regions of the world to understand similarities and differences between contemporary and historic people in various cultures.

- Participate in activities appropriate for audiences with differing levels of interest, ability, understanding, sophistication, and timeframes.

- Participate in an array of interpretive opportunities developed cooperatively by the National Park Service, NANA Corporation, Alaskan Native peoples, and other visitor service providers.

- Understand and appreciate the arctic natural history of the region, its simultaneous toughness and fragility to human impact; sense what the arctic is like in all seasons.

- Achieve a basic understanding of arctic ecosystems and the relationship of humans with those ecosystems, including the role of subsistence activities, to feel they are a part of natural processes evolving in Western Arctic National Parklands and gain respect for those processes.

- Interact with other visitors and local residents in a positive way that encourages cultural sensitivity, enhances understanding of similarities among life-ways and ideas and expands perceptions of and respect for other cultures.

- Obtain sufficient information about traditional and current subsistence uses and recreational activities on the parklands to understand that law authorizes both uses and to promote harmony between subsistence and recreational users.

- Interact with National Park Service staff and programs that provide opportunity to understand and support National Park Service mission in Western Arctic National Parklands and throughout Alaska and the United States and contribute to perpetuation of park values.

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

VISITOR AND AUDIENCE PROFILES

Western Arctic National Parklands is 500 miles from the nearest road. There is daily jet service to Nome and Kotzebue year-round and barge and boat access from mid-June to mid-September. From June to September, Tour Arctic and Alaska Airlines bring 6,000 to 10,000 visitors to Nome and Kotzebue on organized tours. An additional 2,000 to 4,000 independent travelers visit Nome and Kotzebue. Access to the parks is by small plane (wheel, float, or ski), boating or floating the rivers in summer and snowmachine and dog sled in winter. The majority of people who use the parks are local residents; 85% are Native Alaskans. Each park annually receives 2,000 to 4,000 recreational visitors and 5,000 to 10,000 local subsistence visits. Because there are no designated entry points to the four units encompassing 12 million acres, it is difficult to accurately assess visitation to the parklands. Local users travel freely across parks to, from, and between villages. Backcountry visitors often fly directly to their chosen destination without contact with visitor facilities in Nome and Kotzebue or with park staff elsewhere in the park.

The following description of user/audience is based on available user statistics and staff observations. Visitors, residents, and potential audiences are divided into seven major user categories: visitors to Nome and Kotzebue visitor centers, school students, local residents/subsistence users, backpackers/paddlers and winter travelers, sport hunters and fishermen, virtual visitors, and others. Recommendations for interpretive services for each of these major categories are described under the Recommendation Section of this plan.

Visitors to Nome and Kotzebue Visitor Centers

Arctic Tours

National Park Service facilities in Nome and Kotzebue provide the primary opportunity for many Alaskan visitors to receive information about Western Arctic National Parklands. Arctic tours and Alaska Airlines book 6,000 - 10,000 visitors a year for their Arctic Tour to Nome or Kotzebue or both. The tour features an opportunity to fly north of the Arctic Circle and lasts approximately 1 1/2 days with an overnight stay in Nome or Kotzebue. In Kotzebue, nearly every group is brought into the visitor center for a half-hour, multimedia orientation program. In Nome, they are given free time to tour Main Street. Many enter the visitor center individually or in small groups. Very few visitors will visit the parklands. Vicarious experiences in and near the facilities can give visitors information about the significance of preserving these vast resources.

Independent Travelers

Independent travelers come to Nome and Kotzebue to visit friends and relatives, complete temporary work assignments for their employing organizations, or experience rural Alaskan communities. The numbers are small - approximately 10% of the total WEAR visitation. These visitors often have leisure time to read visitor center exhibits and talk with park staff. Typically,

they research the area prior to their arrival. Many will experience the parklands by air while traveling to villages or via backcountry trips. Because the visitor center is near the airport, many travelers will walk to the facility to visit or read while waiting for their scheduled flights. Lengthy discussions with these travelers offer opportunities to discuss cultural traditions of the area and management of WEAR resources.

Iditarod
People from all over the world and throughout Alaska descend on Nome every March for two weeks to witness the finish of the Iditarod sled race. Local residents sponsor and attend many community events. Most people participating in or sponsoring these events will not experience the parklands first-hand. However, they often have time to learn about area history and resources through conversations with park staff when they come into the NPS visitor centers between race finishers. The NPS extends visitor center hours of operation and presents special exhibits, program, and videos for these visitors.

Small Cruise Ships
Between two and six small cruise ships, such as Society Expeditions and Expedition Cruises, dock in Nome every year with 100 to 150 passengers each. Arrival of cruise ships creates potential for interpretive programs developed cooperatively by WEAR and the cruise ship companies.

School Students
Students in the area of WEAR attend school in the Northwest Arctic Borough School District (more than 2,000 students in 11 villages), Nome public schools (700-800 students), or the Bering Straits School District (more than 1,700 students in 15 villages). School facilities in Nome and Kotzebue are relatively large and offer a variety of subjects and single-grade classrooms. The 25 outlying village schools have fewer resources and often have multiple-grade classrooms. One NPS education specialist in Kotzebue is slated to present resource education programs in all NWABSD schools at least once during the year. A NPS interpreter in Nome visits the Nome and Bering Straits schools and performs other assigned duties. Other WEAR staff visits schools as their schedules allow. Occasional contacts with students also occur at the Alaska Technical Center, Northwest College Campus, Chukchi College, elderhostels, private schools, and grade schools and colleges in the Anchorage area. In FY 2001, WEAR staff made 3,840 contacts with school students. Programs cover a gambit of subjects on resource management and history. The NPS message and career opportunities are included in these programs when possible. Repetitive classroom visits by park staff makes an important, positive impression on school students in village communities. The more times students interact with the same presenter, the more they are able to overcome issues of shyness and grasp messages about resource conservation.

Local Residents/Subsistence Users
Local residents from the Seward Peninsula and Kotzebue Basin have high interest in parkland activities. Twenty villages in and around the park provide a small but significant audience for the park interpretive program. Many of these use the parklands regularly to travel between

villages and for subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering through the year. They include a potential outreach audience of both school and adult populations. Currently, local area residents receive messages about WEAR through public meetings, science and research presentations, community events, craft workshops, summer classes, tribal consultations and staff contacts in the field. In FY 2001, approximately 3,670 local residents were contacted. Contacts are both formal, as at public meetings, and informal as with backcountry enforcement. Subjects range from resource protection to the continuation of native craft skills and historical knowledge.

Backpackers/Paddlers and Winter Travelers

Because a formal permitting process for backcountry use does not exist in WEAR, backpackers only occasionally contact park staff. However, they conduct significant research on area resources before arriving for their parkland trip. Information sources include the NPS website and phone calls to WEAR staff and local outfitters. Some purchase topographic maps at the visitor center. People come from all over the U.S. and other countries to experience remote landscapes in northwest Alaska. Some groups choose to share their trip plans with staff and some travelers share stories about their excursions before heading home. These occasional conversations provide a chance to reinforce low impact resource use, explain park management goals, and inspire future trips.

Paddlers, in rafts and kayaks, are similar in origin and self-sufficiency to backpackers. Number and types of contacts with park staff are also similar. Paddlers may encounter backcountry rangers more frequently than backpackers because rivers are common travel corridors for all backcountry users including park staff.

Local residents participate in most winter travel in the parklands; however, a few specialized groups from outside the area venture out by ski plane or snow machine. In early spring, wildlife watchers charter planes to remote areas to observe the northward caribou migration. Participants in and fans of the Kobuk 440 dog race travel through Kobuk Valley National Park. Guided bear hunters travel across the Seward Peninsula. Film crews from other countries have traveled to Shishmaref in the past to document polar bear activity. Roughly 100 visitors a year take part in these activities. These visitors require accurate information on resources and particularly safe trip planning and winter survival.

Sport Hunters and Fishermen

Parkland users include local residents, backcountry recreational visitors, park staff, and scientists/researchers. Backcountry uses associated with hunting and fishing include recreational flying, birding, fishing, boating, camping, and hunting. During winter months, dog mushing, snow machines, and skies provide access for hardy users.

Virtual Visitors

Many residents of Alaska, the "lower 48," or the world at large may never visit Western Arctic National Parklands for economic, accessibility, or other reasons. They still have an interest in information about the park and may vicariously visit the parklands. These visitors include

students completing assigned research, staff in other organizations searching for management models or "arm-chair" travelers. These virtual visitors need efficient access to a variety of information sources. They need several levels of detail such as handbooks or brochures to fit a variety of educational levels. At minimum, they need access to a free overview of park resources and themes plus moderately priced audiovisuals and publications.

Others

Scientists/Researchers

Temporary researchers work in and around WEAR every year. Approximately 74 individuals worked on projects in FY 2001. These individuals receive orientations on park management goals and safety in the backcountry from their supervisors. Many come with much experience in the backcountry but may have less knowledge of local culture and NPS philosophy. Approximately half choose to visit with interpretive staff and purchase materials at the visitor center. Exchanges between researchers and staff provide valuable information about the status of park resources. Four researchers provided public presentations about their research in the area in the summer of 2001. These contacts with staff and the public can be difficult to organize because of tight schedules. Cooperative agreements with universities are the primary source for these scientists and may be used to facilitate researcher and staff/public interactions. Also, interpreters who can assist projects for even a short time can greatly increase their ability to interpret research data to the public.

Fly-through Visitors

Over a thousand Alaska Airlines flights, several thousand smaller commercial air services, and hundreds of private aircraft a year spend a considerable amount of time flying over WEAR. Few passengers will actually set foot in the parklands, but they often get to observe geologic features, tundra landforms, the landscape, and sometimes wildlife. These "fly-through" visitors are a great potential audience for interpreting the importance of arctic ecology and the need for protecting large and remote parks. They can be reached through wayside exhibits installed at regional and local airports, pilot announcements on aircraft public address systems, and brochures placed in airplane reading pouches. A well-designed site bulletin and information brochures will make visitors aware that they are passing over national parks and allow them to pick out landmarks as they fly over them.

Visitors from outside northwest Alaska, who may be included in several of the groups described above, need to receive orientation and safety information as well as interpretation of park resources and management concerns. They need an easy way to acquire accurate information on resources, safe trip planning and low impact travel and camping. A variety of details are required for a varied audience. Self-reliant users may desire limited contact with park staff to facilitate the wilderness experience; however, most users would benefit from detailed information available from park staff. Other media, such as publications, can more effectively provide general information. Since many users enter parklands through Gates of the

Arctic or from communities near Gates, cooperative interpretive planning and development between Gates of the Arctic and Western Arctic will improve service provided by both national park areas.

ISSUES AND INFLUENCES

Cross-cultural Communication
All park employees need training in cross-cultural communication to avoid misunderstandings among the cultural groups using park facilities and lands.

Alaska Villages and Populations

Village	Census Area	Population	% Alaska Native
Ambler	NAB	309	98.1
Brevig Mission	Nome	276	90.5
Buckland	NAB	406	95.8
Deering	NAB	136	93.4
Kiana	NAB	388	92.5
Kivalina	NAB	377	96.6
Kobuk	NAB	109	93.6
Kotzebue	NAB	3,082	71.2
Noatak	NAB	428	93.7
Nome	Nome	3,505	52.0
Noorvik	NAB	634	90.1
Selawik	NAB	772	94.8
Shishmaref	Nome	562	93.2
Shungnak	NAB	256	94.5
Teller	Nome	268	92.5
Wales	Nome	152	83.5
TOTAL		**11,660**	**Average 89.1**

The 2000 Census report lists the Northwest Arctic Borough (NAB) as having a total population of 7,208. Approximately 83% of the population are classified as American Indian and Alaska Native. The number of people classified as White in the Northwest Arctic Borough as 888, or 12.3%. For purposes of the 1990 and 2000 census data, the Northwest Arctic Borough Census Area includes Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Red Dog, Selawik, and Shungnak. Although the 2000 Census lists Red Dog Mine with a population of 32, housing occupancy is listed as zero. Therefore, this report does not include the population figures reported for Red Dog Mine. Adjusting the census count by omitting Red Dog Mine and combining only the populations of Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, and Shungnak, the total population for the Northwest Arctic Borough is 6,897. As a point of methodology, in this report, the figure 6,897 represents the total population in the Northwest Arctic Borough analysis area.

The median age in the Northwest Arctic Borough is 23.9 years. Approximately 59% of the population are 18 years and over. Only 6% of the population are currently 62 and older (436 people).

The differences between local Inupiat culture and other American cultures are great. They include gestures, facial expressions, idiomatic use of language, and attitudes towards land, resources, and visitors. For example: Raising eyebrows means 'yes' and crinkling the nose means 'no'. Many local people view catch-and-release fishing as wrong (playing with a fish for amusement) while taking one for food is perfectly natural. Effective interaction among people of different cultures requires knowledge and sensitivity.

Conflict Between Locals and Backcountry Visitors
Local residents depend on the natural resources of the region for their physical and cultural survival. Some local people are easily displaced from traditional use areas or subsistence activities by the presence of visitors. Hunters from outside the area compete for limited game and hikers, paddlers, and sightseers may startle and drive off wildlife. Visitors sometimes trespass on Native allotments. There are local unwritten rules that visitors may unknowingly violate - camping on the north side of the river during caribou migration, not offering coffee or food to a visitor to your camp, or not offering help to someone who will hint but often not directly ask for needed assistance.

Local Attitudes
Many Alaskans are states-right advocates who resent the presence of the Federal Government and the creation of national parks in western Alaska.

Communication Between Researchers and Locals
Although a large amount of research is done on WEAR lands, very little of the information gathered finds its way back to the local people who help with the work or use the lands.

Staff Turnover
In a region where residents measure their residence in millennia, normal staff rotations of three to five years are viewed as inappropriate. The short tenure also hinders understanding of the vast resources managed by WEAR.

Agency Recognition
The National Park Service is a relatively new management entity in northwest Alaska. NPS employees are often mistaken for Alaska Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USF&W), or other agencies' employees. The inability of NPS employees to react to non-NPS issues confuses and frustrates many people.

Park Access
There are no roads into any of the four units of Western Arctic National Parklands. To reach a park, visitors from outside the area must travel first to Kotzebue or Nome, then find airplane or boat transportation to the parks. Much of the land within park boundaries is accessible only by foot even after a person makes these efforts.

Difference Between a National Park and Preserve
In addition to confusion about what uses are allowed in Alaskan national parks, most of the public is also unclear about the differences in permitted uses between preserves and other types of units.

Staff Not Representative of Region
The park staff does not reflect the ethnic composition of northwest Alaska. Most staff positions at WEAR require advanced levels of Western education and/or experience from the incumbents. Few local residents can meet these qualifications. Because of the very high cost of

living expenses in this area, those who meet these qualifications usually seek and get higher pay than the NPS can offer. Even unskilled, entry level people can get higher pay from other employers in this region. Because of the high turnover in personnel, WEAR staff does not have the breadth of knowledge of the local area that is present in most parks' staffs.

Flexibility of Transportation Scheduling
Unpredictable weather, local residents' need to harvest resources when they are available, and the dispersal of people in northwest Alaska make planning of programs to meet local needs a challenge.

Ability to Contact Many Nome and Kotzebue Visitors in Advance
Visitors from outside the area may arrive with no advance notice, spend a short time in Nome or Kotzebue, and leave.

Inadequate Visitor Facilities
Existing visitor facilities are small and restricted. They do not even come close to what is needed to explore 12,000 years of human habitation and a rich variety of resources that most people, even those who visit WEAR headquarters, will never see.

Unpredictable Weather
Weather in northwest Alaska can change from a clear, mild morning to a blizzard with visibilities measured in inches in the early afternoon. Such unpredictable weather often forces cancellation of programs scheduled in villages or in the field, or programs where projected audience is unable to reach program sites.

ANHA Sales
Prices are high and customers are few in the WEAR region. Merchants depend on sales to visitors more than they do in many areas. Merchants are often critical of cooperating association sales that they view as unjust competition.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Kobuk Valley National Park

OVERALL

The quality of interpretive programs presented to the public, and by extension the image and reputation of the National Park Service, are directly related to the skills, training, and professionalism of the interpreters who provide this service. Their familiarity with the park, current research findings, interpretive methods, training and evaluation techniques must be coupled with objectivity, sensitivity to controversial issues and policies, and management directives.

The park seasonal training program will provide ongoing cross cultural communications and relations training and orientation for all employees on a yearly basis. Park staff will work with the Kotzebue IRA and/or designated representatives for assistance in developing and presenting training. This will enable the park to meet one of the "Recommendations to the agencies" for the policy in Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000.

Park interpretation will impact broad concepts of the parkland primary interpretive themes. Information will identify the parklands as significant resources of the National Park System. All interpretive efforts will relate to one or more of the themes, and each theme will be addressed by some part of the interpretive program.

Staff programs and activities stress the importance of stewardship of park resources. Messages will clearly identify that the parklands are one administrative unit composed of four distinctly significant parks.

Interpretive services occur on a progression from orientation, to information, to interpretation and education. Contacts will be approached with the goal of moving a person or audience closer to making a personal connection to meanings and significance in the resource.

Orientation services are those activities designed to orient visitors to resources, recreational and interpretive opportunities, safety and resource management issues, nearby and related recreational opportunities, and visitor services such as food and lodging. Orientation can be accomplished through personal or non-personal means. The chief component of orientation is information: giving visitors the necessary information to make choices. An additional component of orientation to park-related resources and activities is motivation: encouraging visitors to take advantage of opportunities. Basic orientation will be available in each Information and Education center as well as the park headquarters. Visitors will be able to get desired information in a variety of formats. Media can include maps, brochures, computers, audiovisual programs, exhibits (such as topographic models), and personal services.

Information service include answering all inquiries and questions about CAKR, BELA, NOAT, and KOVA, their resources and policies received by mail, electronically, or in person. Park staff will continue to work with existing local, state, and special interest news and media publications to disseminate information on the parks' significance, and provide up-to-date

information on resource, safety, and other issues. Dissemination can be accomplished through a park biannual newsletter, park staff participation in local community special events, special programs in their field of expertise.

The goal of **interpretation** is to move beyond information and help visitors understand relationships, processes, and meanings. Participants in interpretive programs will understand that the place visited is related to the place they call home. Interpretation seeks to provide visitors with understanding that enhances appreciation of resources and experiences. Good interpretation helps participants have an inspirational, enjoyable experience that arouses curiosity, sometimes satisfies it, but always encourages visitors to figure some things out for themselves.

> Interpretation is the art of explaining the place of people in their environment, to increase visitor or public awareness of the importance of this relationship, and to awaken a desire to contribute to environmental conservation. A visitor is not likely to remember all the cold-blooded facts picked up at a program or nature trail, even when led by a good interpreter. What they will probably remember longest are the associations of ideas or the feelings – that it was a pleasant walk, that it was an interesting place, that the interpreter made it special for them, that they hadn't realized how important the place was until it was explained.

Education programs and activities have goals similar to those of interpretive activities, but are conducted with organized and scheduled groups such as schools, youth programs, and neighborhood or community organizations. The park education specialist works cooperatively with NPS employees, researchers, volunteers, teachers, and other group leaders to provide programs about NPS themes that correspond to school curricula and Alaska State Standards. The education program teaches skills and concepts related to such curriculum areas as general science, the history of science, geology, history, and government.

ACCESSIBILITY

To the greatest extent possible, the WEAR interpretive and education program will ensure that persons with disabilities have opportunities to participate in, and benefit from, all programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate. Persons with disabilities shall receive the same interpretive opportunities as non-disabled persons.

Efforts will also be made to ensure that interpretive and educational programs, exhibits, audiovisual programs, publications, and all other interpretive media meet the special needs of children, senior citizens, hearing and visually impaired, non-English speaking visitors and the economically disadvantaged. Foreign-language translations of park publications will be provided in those parks visited by substantial numbers of non-English-speaking visitors.

GPRA -- INTERPRETIVE GOALS

The interpretive division of WEAR is managed to achieve results identified in its five-year Strategic Plan and Annual Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) plan. These were written to fulfill the requirements of GPRA which was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1993. The law was a catalyst for getting park management to place a greater emphasis on strategic planning and management by objective. In doing so, the park staff re-examined its fundamental mission and took a fresh, longer range strategic view of what results or outcomes are needed to more effectively and efficiently accomplish that mission. It should be noted that the WEAR Strategic Plan is more than just a response to legislative mandate.

The Chief of Interpretation is responsible for taking the lead for WEAR in developing, measuring, and achieving Mission Goal IIa: Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities at Western Arctic National Parklands.

The GPRA goals identified in the current five-year strategic plan include:

IIa1 Visitor Satisfaction: By September 30, 2005, 95% of visitors to Western Arctic National Parklands are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities.

IIa2 Visitor Safety: By September 30, 2005, the number of visitor accidents/incidents at Western Arctic National Parklands is maintained at its low FY 92-FY 96 five-year annual average baseline rate of 6.5.

IIb0A Public Information and Outreach: By September 30, 2005, the number of residents in the 16 affected villages who have had direct contact with WEAR/NPS personnel or information designed to increase understanding of WEAR and NPS mission and activities increases by 30%.

IIb1 Visitor Understanding and Appreciation: By September 30, 2005, 95% of Western Arctic National Parklands visitors understand the significance of the park.

IIb1X Educational Programs: By September 30, 2005, 60 of 2,000 participants in Western Arctic National Parklands' formal educational programs understand America's cultural and natural heritage preserved by the National Park Service and its programs.

In order to measure visitor satisfaction, WEAR conducts a mail-back customer satisfaction survey in Nome and Kotzebue every July. The survey is part of a Social Science Program by all NPS units to systematically measure and report performance related to GPRA goals IIa1 (visitor satisfaction) and IIb1 (visitor understanding and appreciation). Results for 13 indicators (including park facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities) are reported at the park, cluster, region, and national levels.

AUDIOVISUAL

Park staff will seek funding to produce an audiovisual program that communicates the reality, importance, and meaning of subsistence to the Inupiat People. The film may compare Alaska Native use of resources with other historic and contemporary cultures to help people understand and overcome common misconceptions about Alaska Native culture regarding subsistence (how cultural views of hunting, for example, differ). The film will be aimed at a broad audience (PBS, Discovery channel, schools, rural network, NPS orientation for new staff arriving in Alaska) interested in or having concerns about the area. It will capture the interest of audiences to whom hunting is not a matter of survival. It can show actual subsistence activities and convey their cultural importance from the point of view of Native People, focusing on the differences in world views about ethical treatment of hunted animals and proper use of their remains. The film will stress continuity in the relationship of people to place. If the proposed film includes narration, it will be captioned for hearing impaired viewers.

A second audiovisual program, a half-hour natural/cultural history video, will be produced to interweave the natural world of the tundra (geological, zoological, and botanical) and its singular interrelationship with the Inupiat. Beautiful, inspirational and intriguing, this production will show all the majesty and harshness of the golden summers and cruel winters of the Arctic ecosystem. It will not deal with the Western Arctic National Parklands as a delineated park with political boundaries. It will accentuate the unique role the parklands play as harbor for millennium-old secrets, incubator for migratory birds, a universe of lichen, home to the Inupiat and muskox, salmon, reindeer, wolf, and bear. The audiovisual program will be produced with the highest technical quality, shot on 16mm or Super 16 film with quality sound effects and mix. Produced in cooperation with local Inupiat groups, the video/film can dramatically present the parkland's key themes and provide the vicarious experience that most "visitors" will need. If the proposed film includes narration, it will be captioned for hearing impaired viewers. In addition to being shown regularly in visitor facilities, closed-captioned video dubs of the program can be distributed gratis to schools for incorporation into science, geography, and social science curricula. It can be shown on the local public access channel, and arrangements can be made for it to air on Alaska Public Television. Dubs can be distributed to cruise-ship lines and tour groups in Southeast Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. It can also be sold through the parkland cooperating association.

Park staff will cooperate with villages to produce audio programs on subjects of common interest (subsistence, stories, etc.) for distribution via radio.

A 10-12-minute video will be produced to interpret archeological resources protection. It can emphasize the importance of Arctic archeology, the intentional and unintentional destruction of significant resources, and the importance of protecting those resources for local and global cultures.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Most park websites under utilize the internet's potential for interpretation. In Northwest Alaska electronic media can be one of the most effective methods to reach all audiences. The following electronic media and services are recommended for high priority implementation. The creativity of park staff in adapting advances in technology can make the park website a premier element of National Park Service interpretation.

Thematic Interpretation
The website will be updated to introduce new interpretive themes developed for this long-range interpretive plan. Website visitors will find a basic introduction to each of the primary themes, their associated stories, and the resources that best relate to them.

Virtual Visits
Existing technology can easily provide the global public a virtual parkland experience. The development of virtual tours will help people, even those who may never be able to visit in person, better understand the arctic resources and the people associated with them. Panoramic views and video and audio segments from various locations within the park will help people visualize the extent and complexity of park resources. Short video trailers of park natural and cultural audiovisual programs will be incorporated into the website as online mini-documentaries. Web cams can provide real-time views of selected resources.

Application of advanced technologies may result in:
- Someone visiting the exhibit area of the proposed new visitor center through a virtual experience to find all the information that is provided at the exhibit.
- Outreach classroom ranger talks, possibly with two-way communication.
- School children seeing live images of activities in parklands and visitor center or education centers.
- The public watching special evens from their home or school computers.

A "virtual" junior ranger program will be presented through the website. Children accessing the site can answer online questions about the park and the National Park Service. Answers to questions may be found by researching the park website and exploring links to other sites such as the NPS central website. Completion certificates can be downloaded or delivered by mail.

Trip Planning
The park website will be expanded to provide easy-to-use trip planning information. This section of the site will describe recreational/educational; opportunities, services available, and limiting factors affecting travel above the Arctic Circle in Alaska. Specific pages for special

interest activities such as hunting will be added. Trip planning elements will help people arrive at the park prepared for the conditions likely to be encountered in an arctic environment.

Collection
Since visitors do not see much of the park's extensive museum collection, the website can offer a venue to view images of selected items. Photographs of objects can be organized to support the park primary themes and exchanged periodically so the website sustains user interest.

Management
The website management pages will highlight significant resources, critical issues, and management programs. This material will be valuable to prospective visitors, local park users, and even to those who may never have an opportunity to visit the park. Specific page topics will include the following:

- "Leave-No-Trace" -- information about how to behave responsibly and safely in the park
- Resource protection programs and activities
- Visitor safety
- Research project descriptions and results
- Planning and management documents
- Permitting instructions and regulations (backcountry, commercial filming, etc.)
- Park rules and regulations
- Interactive -- "Ask A Ranger"
- Visitor comment form for feedback on website or park.

CD-ROM
The development of the park CD-ROM, "Science in our Lives," on the park website will offer endless interpretive possibilities for people whose computers have multimedia capabilities. The CD can describe the Northwest Alaska Arctic Region environment, natural resources and people with emphasis on information (maps descriptions, photographs of the four park units, adjacent community information.) WEAR modules include significant natural and cultural features, including archeology, geology, and arctic land forms. Other modules address natural and cultural history information in both English and Inupiat. A few are presented in the form of interactive games for children. Posting this on our website will help make much of the information and services available by Internet.

Special Sections
Sections of the website will address needs of specific stakeholder groups -- boaters, hunters, fishers, subsistence users. Each section will address safety concerns, rules and regulations, low impact techniques, and etiquette for interacting with other park constituents.

A collection of park related photographs, graphics, and other electronic images will be included in the website. Individuals, school groups, or publishers will identify appropriate images as available for download and use. The website will link to partner organizations

identified in the long-range interpretive plan so web visitors can access special information about subjects of interest.

PUBLICATIONS

Park staff will work with Harpers Ferry Center to replace the existing Northwest Alaska Areas folder with new, separate folders for Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, and Noatak National Preserve. The new folders shall be available on audiotape for the benefit of those who are visually impaired and in several languages (both audio and written formats) to meet the needs of visitors from Russia, Taiwan, Japan, Germany, and Alaska Native communities. The parklands's public contact staff will continue surveying visitors to identify languages spoken and make interpretive materials available in appropriate languages as the need arises.

A handbook for Alaska's Arctic Parklands, including Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve, and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, will be produced as soon as possible. The broad scope of stories related to the parklands go beyond park boundaries to include all the Brooks Range. The publication will integrate landscape and traditional culture to provide detailed information and colorful photography for people who want more information than provided in standard brochures. The book will be designed, written, and photographed to have popular appear. Content shall provide sufficient detail to make the publication appropriate for school, library, and serious educational interests.

A series of site bulletins designed with a similar format to present an identifiable family resemblance shall adopt the NPS Message Project standards to effectively communicate the NPS identity and mission. Specific subjects related to primary themes, safety issues, and management initiatives can include access opportunities (plane, boat, foot, etc.) and limitations, arctic safety, the land bridge concept, animal list, contemporary Alaska cultures, bird and plant lists. A publication will be available to all parkland users to guide interaction between native and non-native peoples and their properties. The publication can provide information about in-holdings, subsistence lifestyles and unwritten codes of etiquette. Basic interpretive site bulletins will be available on audiotape for the benefit of those who are visually impaired.

A full color poster will be produced to support the parkland's outreach program. It may depict significant resources, illustrate appropriate uses, identify National Park Service management principles, and encourage support for preservation and conservation of an integrated landscape and traditional culture. It can be displayed at villages, visitor centers, and other public sites that have an interest in the parklands. It may also be a popular sale item distributed through the park cooperating association.

The park will seek partnerships with publishers, video producers, CD-ROM developers, and other media professionals to develop commercial sales publications and media specific to Western Arctic National Parklands. A variety of high quality products compatible with the parkland's interpretive needs may be feasible at publisher expense. The park can focus available

fiscal resources on other products needed but not economically viable for development by commercial partners.

FACILITIES

Kotzebue Innaigvik Visitor Center
The National Park Service will operate the present Inaigvik Center until replaced by a new NANA/NPS partnership facility. From mid-June through mid-September, the visitor center function will provide orientation, information, and interpretation to 5,000-10,000 Arctic Tour visitors who arrive in groups of 5 and 50 people. The Center will be staffed 7 days a week during the busy season. At least one uniformed employee will be available to greet walk-in visitors, interpret exhibits and displays, introduce the 30-minute park video, answer questions, provide a park brochure and newsletter and sell ANHA publications. Effort will be made to recruit local employees who can enhance park themes with their experiences living in bush Alaska year-round. They will also help provide face-to-face orientation with backcountry visitors before they enter the parks.

During winter, the center will function as a cultural education facility to teach art techniques and provide space for cultural revitalization training. Many young visitors will have sustained experience with exhibits that portray Kotzebue's vibrant contemporary culture and the parkland's wealth of archeological and natural history themes. The facility will reflect a community focus with high quality execution of programs that emphasize science, conservation, and culture. Visual and physical contact with resources will characterize activities to the extent possible.

The NPS will continue working in partnership with NANA to develop a Northwest Arctic Region Visitor and Cultural Center in Kotzebue. The proposed facility, as described in the 2000 *Northwest Arctic Region Visitor and Cultural Center* report, will be designed to meet the needs of visitors to Kotzebue and to serve as an environment and cultural education center for local residents and nearby communities of northwest Alaska. It will provide museum storage and a gathering place where workshops will bring together community members for the intergenerational transmission of cultural values and knowledge. It will help promote traditional handicrafts and train young artist. It will provide a 150-seat auditorium for traditional dancing, movies, and multimedia presentations on natural and cultural history. The NPS will invite local and village students to the facility for environmental education, college preparation and capacity building. Public meetings will be conducted in 2001 and 2002 to solicit input into the development of this facility in collaboration with NANA and local organizations.

Nome Visitor Facilities

The visitor contact facility at the NPS administrative building in Nome will continue operation. Park staff will continue to pursue development of a new cooperative visitor center in Nome as proposed in previous planning documents. A Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment -- Nome Visitor and Administrative Facilities (1996) proposes general design features and suggests management strategies for a visitor facility in Nome. If completed, the facility will be developed, managed, and operated by the National Park Service, city of Nome, and Alaska Native organizations. A Long-Range Interpretive Plan -- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (1998) describes detailed implementation strategies for interpretation at the proposed facility.

Seasonal Ranger Stations/Shelter Cabins

Interpretation at these infrequently visited facilities will explain to users the reason for national parkland creation, local and international values of regional resources, significance of resources in the immediate vicinity of each facility, safety considerations, and National Park Service resource protection responsibilities. Simple media can consist of upright exhibits, bulletin boards and brochure dispensers. Construction components shall include durable wayside exhibit materials to withstand vandalism and arctic climate.

Environmental Education Center

WEAR has joined with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve in supporting the development of the Denali Science and Learning Center (DSLC). WEAR provides an ideal setting for conducting field-based environmental education classes about arctic and sub-arctic flora and fauna, permafrost landforms, volcanic features, an ever changing coastline subject to the influence of wind, sea, and ice, and 10,000 years of Arctic archeology. However, its remoteness, severe climate, limited access, and distance from population centers, limits its potential for supporting a stand-alone learning center.

The DSLC is envisioned as a place where science and education combine to better preserve and protect the nationally and internationally significant resources of the eight northern Alaskan parks that make up over 50% of National Park Service lands. WEAR will serve as a satellite campus. Parklands provide locations for sponsoring research and conducting classes on topics of international interest. Cultural topics can include Bering Land Bridge and peopling of the western hemisphere, arctic archeology (sites representing every known period of occupancy over the past 11,000 years), indigenous cultures and their relationship to the land (the continuity and evolution of Inuit culture). Natural topics may include bird subjects (migratory Spring and Fall birds, pelagic birds, and exotics from Asia), permafrost features and tundra ecology, arctic mammals (caribou migration and muskoxen), the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers (large wilderness riverine ecosystems) and, global warming (shifts in the treeline and pan ice). WEAR facilities in Kotzebue, Nome, and Serpentine Hot Springs, and at backcountry locations throughout the four parks will be available to support DSLC programs.

WAYSIDE EXHIBITS

Park staff will develop permanent wayside exhibits/bulletin boards for key interpretation and information sites. Wayside exhibits are best used to interpret specific visible features or to provide orientation. Due to the small number of parkland users and the goal to protect the wild character of the parklands, few interpretive waysides will be needed. However, there are several locations where the wayside format and fabrication materials are the best media to withstand the harsh arctic environment and potential vandalism. Wayside materials are also recommended for exhibits inside unstaffed structures to provide more durability than conventional exhibits. All park waysides will present a family resemblance, contain both text and illustrations, and be easy to replace.

Landing Strips
Exhibit panels will be dedicated to interpreting resource values, appropriate/safe use activities, and National Park Service resource protection responsibilities. A bulletin board will post information concerning special events, public meetings, and resource management activities.

Seasonal Ranger Stations/Shelter Cabins
Exhibits at parkland cabins will explain to users the reason for the parkland's creation, local and international values of regional resources, significance of resources in the immediate vicinity of each site, safety considerations, and the National Park Service resource protection responsibilities. Upright exhibits and bulletin boards using durable wayside exhibit materials will be located unobtrusively. Folder dispensers may be included at some sites at the discretion of parkland staff.

Science will be integrated into interpretation in a format and depth that make scientific data easily understood by targeted audiences.

PRE-VISIT INFORMATION

Area residents and potential visitors will be provided basic orientation information before they reach the information desk or enter the park. Since parkland users arrive through many entry points, information for trip planning and parkland use must be provided at many locations and through several media types, including mail and electronic means.

The WEAR website will be regularly updated to ensure content is accurate, current, easily accessible, and compelling. Short video trailers of park natural and cultural audiovisual programs can be included on the website as online mini-documentaries.

Parkland brochures will be distributed at villages, points of entry to local areas, lodging and dining establishments, and visitor information facilities.

Park staff will generate frequent news releases, respond positively to interview requests, and facilitate media access to parklands. Increased use of local, regional, statewide, and national publications, television, and radio stations can effectively communicate parkland and National Park Service values, programs, and activities.

Hunter/user etiquette guidelines will be developed for presentation through a variety of media and locations to park users before they enter parklands.

Cooperation with Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to distribute information at Bettles and with APLIC and FPLIC to provide information through facilities in major hubs of travel for Alaska visitors can reach many potential WEAR visitors.

PERSONAL SERVICES

Personal services are those in which the staff of the park interacts with long distance visitors and local neighbors. Examples of personal service programs include the staffing of visitor centers and contact stations, talks, illustrated programs, conducted activities, demonstrations, performing arts, junior ranger activities, special events, and educational programs.

Visitors must build an information base prior to being able to make a personal "connection" with meanings of resources. WEAR will offer a variety of personal services that help people understand and appreciate the park's significances. Effective personal services need to be tailored to audience characteristics and available time to meet the needs of individuals and groups.

Theme-based personal service activities will be presented throughout the year to interpret National Park Service management philosophies, parkland features and resource conservation to Nome, Kotzebue, and village residents. The NPS needs to create innovative publicity and personal invitations to community members to attract a broad audience. Inviting local residents to present remembrances of area history and parkland resources is one strategy for increasing community involvement. Providing familiarization tours to media representatives and civic, business, and Native Alaskan leaders is an effective way to encourage them to experience the parkland's beauty and significance and to generate feature articles or reports on WEAR.

As park employees, from every division, have responsibility for providing information and interpretive service to the public. All employees will receive training to assure they have knowledge of management goals, understand primary themes, and can effectively communicate through public contact with all audiences. Every employee will utilize their expertise to develop and present formal programs under the direction of the Chief of Interpretation.

NPS, USF&W, and independent researchers will be encouraged or required as permit condition to disseminate research findings to the public. Presentations to park staff and the public can effectively inform everyone about resource monitoring and management programs, develop community support and integrate current research findings into all interpretive activities. These research presentations are crucial in getting local residents to understand and appreciate significance of the area and its importance to their cultural significance and subsistence way of life. Research reports and findings will be available for distribution to the public as promptly as possible.

CULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS

The park will continue to sponsor and facilitate programs by local community members and elders to demonstrate the correlation between Inupiaq people and their environment. These programs may include cultural demonstrations and workshops on making clothing, arctic survival tools, and local crafts. The Chief of Interpretation will actively consult with tribal governments and other Native organizations in the planning, development, presentation, and operation of park interpretive programs and media relating to Inupiaq culture and history. Cooperative programs developed with tribal governments and cultural groups help the NPS present accurate perspectives on regional cultures. Ethnographic or cultural anthropological data and concepts will be used in interpretive programs as appropriate.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Junior Ranger

WEAR will offer a Junior Ranger Program to provide children aged 6-12 opportunities to earn a WEAR Junior Ranger badge. Junior Ranger kits consisting of small projects that young people complete while at WEAR will be available at Nome and Kotzebue. Projects may include crossword puzzles, fill-in blanks, and other activities that can be completed in a short period of time and demonstrate participants understanding of the importance of the park's resources. This program is especially important for families because it gives children access to park resources in a manner they can understand.

Traditional Summer Camps

Many Alaska villages and school districts sponsor summer camps for students. Co-developing enjoyable environmental education programs with school districts and elders of the community will educate young, potential stewardship partners. The camps meet the Alaska and Pacific West region education goal to "strengthen relations with youth."

PARTNERSHIPS

Parks cannot survive as islands. Many resource issues transcend park boundaries and need the support of local and statewide communities to be effectively addressed. This is particularly true at WEAR. The parks contain private lands and receive considerable visitation from within Alaska including extensive subsistence use from local people. Approximately 11,000 residents in proximity to the four parks are eligible for subsistence. Community and educational outreach and partnering is essential to reach local stakeholders, get their support for conservation, and enlist their participation in resource monitoring and policy decision-making.

The following descriptions of partnership opportunities express Western Arctic National Parkland's interest in and collaboration with other visitor service providers. Successful implementation of this long-range interpretive plan depends on continuation and expansion of existing partnerships and initiation of new ones, especially with visitor service providers in the immediate vicinity of the park. Positive cooperation among all providers of tourism services can help each entity respond to the opportunities and challenges that face them.

Frequent interaction between park staff and other visitor service providers ensure that potential visitors have accurate information about experience opportunities and information needed to prepare for a safe and enjoyable visit. Visitors traveling to partnership sites will find opportunities to participate in an integrated, professional program of interpretive activities produced by the National Park Service and other entities to offer a complete, balanced Arctic experience.

Alaska Natural History Association
This cooperating association operates a publication sales outlet in parkland visitor contact facilities. The cooperating association provides visitor services through sale of educational material and contribution of funds to the park's interpretive program. Expansion of the sales operation to include an outlet at the proposed visitor facility in Kotzebue can expand opportunity for visitors to acquire additional interpretive materials.

NANA
Cooperative relations with NANA enhance visitor experience in Kotzebue and contribute to ethnography and liaison with villages surrounding parklands.

Alaska Native Villages
Listening to people in communities around the parklands enable development of programs that allow for a variety of opinions that fit the communities and support National Park Service management. Working successfully with villages to increase tourism services benefit visitors to the parklands. Training and hiring rangers from local villages, preferably people fluent in Inupiaq and English, creates a bridge to local communities while monitoring, protecting, and interpreting resources.

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve
Many visitors to Western Arctic National Parklands enter the park through Gates. Cooperative activities between the two parks assure that visitors have information necessary to safely travel through both parks with minimum resource damage. Cooperation in development of education programs, publications, and audiovisual media help both parks provide efficient service to the same local audiences.

Commercial Operations
Commercial services operating near the parklands provide visitor access and information about part resources. Cooperation between the park and commercial service providers enhances the ability of both to provide good customer service. Park staff will develop and distribute interpretive flight-seeing packages/manuals to local air taxis and commercial airlines.

Tourism Organizations
The park can build community belief in the economic value of parklands by encouraging low-impact tourism. Continued cooperation with local governments and private groups and individuals involved in the tourism industry can enhance visitor service training programs. Cooperation can stimulate interest in WEAR as a destination, thus increasing economic benefits to villages and local businesses. The park can host annual pre-season free workshops for tourism operators, teaching them about park resources and encouraging them to interpret park themes to their clients. The training program can emphasize the benefits to local businesses of acquiring and sharing such knowledge. Park staff can work closely with local merchants, hotels, bed and breakfasts, and restaurants to offer park brochures and other publications that may be distributed by tourism industry operators to enhance clients' experiences.

Airport Authorities
Park managers will contact Nome and Kotzebue airport authorities to request permission to locate exhibits at the airports. Exhibits will capture airport users' attention, introduce visitors to the parkland's primary interpretive themes, provide a bulletin board to display changing information, and encourage people to visit the parkland information centers in Nome and Kotzebue.

Other Partnership Opportunities
Partnerships will be sought with regional school districts to encourage education program, friends group to assist interpretation activities and organizations to conduct research, participate in resource management activities and complete visitor surveys. Activities may include sharing of expertise and funding for training, historical research, special events and seminars, exhibit planning and development, site promotion, and tours. Visitors and regional residents will benefit from expanded, multifaceted visitor experience opportunities. Integration of interpretive themes will present a more complete, balanced story and resources of each partner can be more efficiently utilized.

OUTREACH

Distance and lack of roads at Western Arctic National Parklands make visitor use of parklands and related facilities difficult. People who may never visit need interpretation of parkland significance. In addition to good interpretation, potential users need current information to be aware of safety and resource issues. To meet these needs the National Park Service must take facilities to offsite audiences. The objective is to find low cost ways of getting information to neighbors and potential visitors and getting those audiences to facilities and parklands as appropriate. Outreach must provide different levels of information relevant to several ages and cultures. Venues need to attract local participation in both on and off park locations.

The parkland formal public relations program will be enhanced. Regularly offered public meetings for communities near the park will solicit community participation in parkland planning or resolution of park issues that may generate controversy. Frequently and regularly present updates on park activities at Alaska Native Organizations, local government meetings, Rotary clubs, Chamber meetings, tourism and development group offices, and other community forums will ensure that National Park Service and public concerns are adequately communicated.

Park staff will establish a village liaison program. Develop a network of village residents and routine communication through that network can determine what villages need and want in their relations with the park. Park personnel can visit villages frequently, informally, with no agenda, seeking villagers input on a wide variety of mutual issues. Formal, regularly scheduled public meetings in villages will keep residents informed of parkland issues and threats, including threats to subsistence lifestyles. NPS actions that mitigate those threats will be emphasized.

The park will facilitate a community involvement program that demonstrates commitment of park management and staff to the community. Continued and enhanced people-to-people relationships among park staff, local organizations, and regional residents will be encouraged. Recruitment of local volunteers and employees for projects in the park will be continued and expanded as possible. Occasional open forums for community residents will provide opportunity for them to express their concerns about park management, development, and use issues. Active participation by park staff in a variety of community activities and local events will communicate park interest in the community. Park managers may offer facility space to community groups for meetings and space in park newspapers for community orientation where appropriate. Staff participate in meetings around the region and state can address concerns and to provide assistance or solutions to communities.

Scanner television station, local radio, and newspapers can be used to effectively inform people about changes affecting use of parklands. Results of research, issues of resource management and protection activities, and special projects can be shared on a regular and frequent basis to

link park accomplishments to the sustainability of resources upon which villagers depend for subsistence.

A video library program will be established, maintained, and publicized. Audiovisual programs presented in theatre facilities at Nome and Kotzebue can be delivered to regional news media, professional organizations and individual homes in video format. Video recordings of interpretive presentations, public meetings, and scientific lectures distributed to villages will spread impact of those events throughout the region and the world.

Traveling exhibits using components of existing exhibits and artifacts combined with new media can be shipped to villages for temporary or permanent display. A traveling exhibit composed of wayside exhibit panels mounted in a lightweight exhibit frame can easily and inexpensively carry parkland messages to a variety of public venues. Exhibits will explain the reason for the parkland's creation, local and international values of regional resources, appropriate and safe use activities on the parklands, and National Park Service resources protection responsibilities

Development of Environmental Education travel trunks will be continued. Several trunks can be available, each focusing on parkland themes while meeting the school's curriculum and Alaska State Standards. Those kits will be designed for presentation by any parkland staff or as self-use activities accompanied with audiotapes and written guides.

Kiana, Ambler, and Deering have requested facilities at their villages. Establishment of an NPS presence at these and other villages will help achieve NPS management goals. The park will pursue cooperative activities near parklands to establish facilities to interpret NPS and village interests.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Teachers frequently rotate through Alaska schools and do not have extensive knowledge of local resources and cultures. The park education program will adjust to local school needs with the goal to get young people excited about their culture and about the park. The parklands and related stories offer remarkable opportunities for all visitors and students. The curriculum-based education program currently in place will continue and expand when possible to enhance educational opportunities.

The education program will involve a combination of onsite and offsite activities, all based on aspects of the primary interpretive themes. While many activities can be resource-based, some will be developed for access on computer network systems for both school and home use.

The program will fit established state education curricula of Alaska. Teachers from regional school districts will be invited to assist in design and implementation of activities that enhance their classroom teaching. Materials and activities can prepare teachers and students for a visit to parkland facilities or stand alone for classroom use. Other activities can extend learning experiences throughout the school year. Activities may include an education center, a visit to primary resources, and interaction with staff and community volunteers.

Active and direct involvement with cooperating school districts will be necessary to assure a well-coordinated, beneficial education experience for all groups. An education specialist will coordinate the program and attend faculty meetings, in-service workshops, seminars, and other teacher gatherings. The coordinator and other rangers or volunteers can visit schools within commuting distance to encourage cooperation between the park and school districts. A committee composed of representatives, especially classroom teachers, from school districts participating in the program, education associations, university professors, and state department of the education will function as an advisory and implementation group.

A model program should first be developed to provide professional supplements to local educational curricula. Once successfully implemented in a few schools near the parklands, the program can be expanded to other systems around the country (and world) to capitalize on widespread familiarity with the "Land Bridge" concept. Establishment of electronic relationships with students and teachers around the country will provide a venue for educating the world concerning ongoing park projects and research. Support for parkland conservation efforts will be enriched when village schools, students, and parents realize they have a personal benefit and stake in having park personnel, programs, and resources routinely available through a National Park Service sponsored outreach education program.

During school breaks, selected elements of the education program can be adapted to provide teacher workshops for continuing education credits. Many self-directed activities developed for the education program may also be made available to individuals and family groups visiting park facilities year-round.

A Science Camp in Nome and Kotzebue can integrate stories of all cultures with resources in the community's backyard. Field schools in the area surrounding Nome and Kotzebue, in the villages surrounding parklands and on the parklands can extend the science camp concept throughout the region. Parkland visits where feasible will build appreciation for and identify with parkland resources, including those not related to subsistence uses, and will share minimum impact principles, both traditional and modern.

In conjunction with development of a new visitor facility in Kotzebue, a residential Cultural Education Center will provide young people an in-depth, focused learning experience. Groups of students can use the education center as a point-of-departure for trips to the field, and as a laboratory for exploring concepts in a dedicated setting. The success of environmental education centers suggests a similar approach for historical and cultural interpretation, especially when combined with an innovative hands-on research media approach. The center may have a library, archive, theater, and media studio. After spending a day exploring cultural landscapes, archeological sites or interacting with local historians, students will return to the cultural center to process experiences. Video cameras may document sites and interviews. Information from a visit to the park's artifact and graphic collection can be recorded in field notebooks and follow-up research explored in the center's library and replica archive. Student "curators" may arrange reproduction artifacts stored in the center into exhibits for other students and public viewing.

The center's facilitator can work with the student teams while teachers and other students prepare a meal typical of the history/culture being studied. Then students can prepare for another day of exploration and study that makes history live.

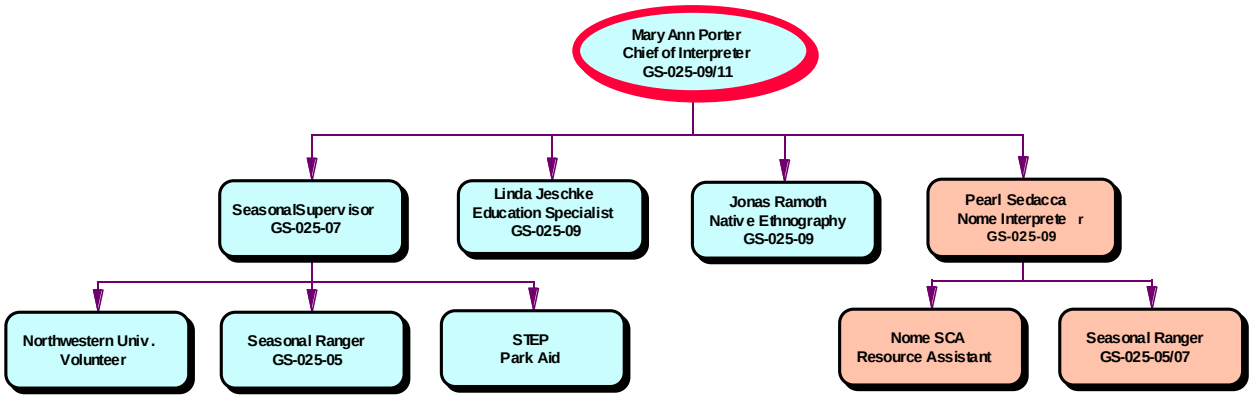
STAFFING PLAN

To fully implement the proposals in this plan, WEAR staff will continue to be involved in interpretation and education problems. Working with the public, both in the field and in ranger stations, staff will meet the National Park Service objectives of providing for visitor enjoyment and long-term protection of resources.

The quality of interpretive and educational programs presented to the public, and by extension the image and reputation of the National Park Service, are directly related to the skills, training, and professionalism of those who provide the service. A competent, well-trained work force is essential to the delivery of high-quality interpretation and education. Accordingly, all NPS Interpreters will strive to achieve the certification standards for the essential benchmark competencies identified in the Interpretive Development Program (IDP).

The Interpretive Development Program is a decentralized, competency-based training program closely tied to the required knowledge, skills, and abilities contained in Ranger Careers position descriptions. The program emphasis is on demonstrating skills as measured against national written standards. The emphasis is not on attending training courses.

Non-NPS personnel providing interpretive services will be offered an opportunity to complete appropriate IDP modules and/or seek certification in the appropriate competencies.



IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES BY UNIT

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

This unit of WEAR, close to the size of Yellowstone National Park, is 80% proposed wilderness. It includes treeless landscapes, coastal lagoon, shallow lakes, migratory birds, muskox herds, and extensive volcanic history. Serpentine Hot Springs receives frequent use by Alaska Natives and is the most popular area for use by other visitors. It currently receives little recreational use, but has potential for more winter trips.

The village of Deering has requested assistance from the National Park Service in developing tourism at that community. Success in a facility at that location could result in demand for similar facilities at other villages such as Council, Shishmareff, and Teller.

Serpentine Hot Springs, an oasis in the tundra, is the most popular and accessible site for visitors to the preserve. While the surrounding environment provides a mystical experience that requires little interpretation, exhibits can effectively integrate landscape and traditional culture of the area. Alaska Native people prefer low key treatment at Serpentine Hot Springs due to the area's sensitivity as a sacred site. Any exhibits developed for this site will be attached to inside walls of structures to avoid imposing additional intrusions. Visitors can learn about the effect of past volcanism on the surrounding landscape and about the continuing presence of substantial geothermal energy in this area. Exhibits also can describe safety, resource preservation, and management initiatives. A brochure dispenser will make park produced site bulletins available to visitors and the poster proposed in the Publications section of this long-range interpretive plan be displayed in a bulletin board.

A development concept plan is recommended for Serpentine to decide upon appropriate level of development and use.

A wayside exhibit beside the road leading from Nome to Kougarok will offer travelers an opportunity to learn about tundra environment and its related human history. A low profile, ground mounted exhibit in the vicinity of Kuzitrin River valley and oriented so visitors are looking toward the preserve can describe the significance of the preserve, its location, and appropriate access routes.

The park may sponsor activities designed to bring people into the preserve. Ski tour/dogsled races, community outings at Serpentine Hot Springs and a snowmobile rendezvous can diminish misconceptions that access to the preserve is prohibited.

Noatak National Preserve

Noatak surrounds a 400-mile river with several large-scale ecosystems. This unit has more recreational use than other park units. Recreational users are attracted by wonderful wildlife (plant and animal) and traditional Alaska Native culture. Here people can experience a subsistence lifestyle where the caribou is a way of life and free-ranging caribou defines the rhythms of the people.

The river starts with the glaciers in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Most users of Noatak have more contact with Gates staff than with WEAR staff.

An active and routine cooperative program between Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Western Arctic National Parklands is essential for each to provide adequate visitor service. Cooperative education programs for visitors and Alaska Native villages serviced by both parks can lessen the impact on each while providing effective services. Joint design and production of exhibits, publications, and audiovisual projects for similar resources in each park will provide more products for less expenditure.

A new Harpers Ferry produced site brochure will be produced to replace a brochure dealing with all Arctic Parklands. A site-specific brochure can more effectively describe and illustrate the significant resources included in the preserve.

Cape Krusenstern National Monument

Cape Krusenstern unit is more similar to Bering Land Bridge than to other parkland units. Topography is similar, but Cape Krusenstern has more forested areas. Bench ridges near the coast contain significant and uninvestigated archeological sites. It is also similar to Bering Land Bridge in its wildlife and wilderness. Krusenstern contains many private allotments and fish camps, especially around Sheshalik Spit. During seven months of winter when the Chukchi Sea is frozen, residents of Kotzebue use the area extensively for subsistence hunting, but no sport hunting is permitted. Subtle differences characterize native and non-native subsistence uses. A road from Red Dog Mine crosses the monument to a port site on the Arctic Ocean. There is high interest in muskox hunting, and the monument herd is managed to maintain a healthy, viable herd.

Villages near Kobuk and Bering Land Bridge have requested park assistance in establishing visitor facilities in their communities. Success in establishing facilities at those villages may result in demand for similar facilities at villages near Cape Krusenstern such as Kivalina and Noatak. The park should prepare to respond to requests for assistance.

A new Harpers Ferry produced site brochure will be produced to replace a brochure dealing with all Arctic Parklands. A site-specific brochure can more effectively describe and illustrate the significant resources included in the national monument.

Kobuk Valley National Park

Several villages on the Kobuk River east and west of Kobuk National Park results in significantly more activity, and the potential for more user conflicts in this unit of the park than in others. The park includes almost 100 property in-holdings primarily along the river where it transects the southern section of the park. Humans have used the river for 8,000 years, and surrounding areas contain significant archeological sites. Nearby sand dunes and migrating herds of caribou continue to attract native and non-native uses, especially along the relatively accessible river corridor.

Many people feel they are being pushed out of the area. Park interpretation needs to assess what the local population thinks is appropriate for this area and develop visitor/user experiences that emphasize regional culture.

Onion Portage on the Kobuk River needs interpretive attention. Interpretive development in this area will focus on the differences and similarities between traditional and scientific beliefs, such as subsistence versus sport hunting. An ongoing archeological project provides resources and activities for an interesting and important interpretive experience. A historic cabin, archeological site, and hunting area offers a natural fit for staff housing and liaison with the community. Appropriate interpretation media for this location includes personal services, publications and simple, unobtrusive wayside exhibits.

Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, one of the more popular hike and camp areas along the Kobuk, can be effectively interpreted from the air and by trail to the dunes. Interpretive information can be provided to commercial air delivery/charter services and river livery services for presentation to visitors through personal service or publications.

The village of Ambler has requested park assistance with interpretation at a small community building. Interpretation of parklands at this location will identify points of interest on Kobuk, provide safety information, and emphasize that artifacts should not be disturbed.

The village of Kiana has also requested park interpretive/informational assistance to enhance tourism. Success in a facility at Kiana may result in demand for similar facilities at other villages along the Kobuk River such as Noorvik, Chungnak, and Kobuk.

Information provided at Kiana and Ambler may include graphic exhibits at the landing strip. A publication available to all users can give information about in-holdings, subsistence lifestyles, and unwritten codes of etiquette for interaction between native and non-native peoples and their properties.

A new Harpers Ferry produced site brochure will replace a brochure dealing with all Arctic Parklands. A site-specific brochure can more effectively describe and illustrate the significant resources included in the national monument.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY PARK USER GROUPS

	Visitors to Nome And Kotzebue Visitor Centers	School Students	Local Residents/ Subsistence Users	Hikers/Paddles and Winter Travelers	Sport Hunters and Fisherman	Virtual Visitors
Visitor Experience Objectives	• Positive experience--staff & facility • Appreciate significance and extent of WEAR • Awareness of sensitivity of Arctic to human effects. • Sensitivity to subsistence and local Native culture. • Support national park system and need to protect remote wilderness parks in Alaska.	• Have fun. • Learn about Arctic natural & cultural resources. • Awareness of sensitivity of resources to human impact. • Learn about purpose of National Park System. • Learn about significance of WEAR	• Positive experience with minimal disruption of traditional cultural. • Awareness of regulations, sensitivity of resources, and minimum impact practices. • Understanding how NPS provides subsistence opportunity--prevents sport hunting in CAKR & KOVA. • Understanding and support for NPS. • Sensitivity to outside visitors.	• Quality wilderness experience with solitude and Leave-No-Trace practices. • Safe visits. • Avoidance of conflicts with subsistence users. • Positive interaction with Native people--sensitivity of the importance of traditional activities and life ways to Native people. • Awareness of sensitivity of resources. • Knowledge of state and federal regulations.	• Quality wilderness experience with solitude and Leave-No-Trace practices. • Safe visits. • Avoidance of conflicts with subsistence users. • Positive interaction with Native people--sensitivity of the importance of traditional activities and life ways to Native people. • Awareness of sensitivity of resources. • Knowledge of state and federal regulations.	• High quality experience -- easy access, find what they need, good layout, accurate & well-written text. • Appreciate significance and extent of WEAR. • Awareness of sensitivity of Arctic to human effects. • Support National Park System and need to protect remote wilderness parks in Alaska.

	Visitors to Nome And Kotzebue Visitor Centers	School Students	Local Residents/ Subsistence Users	Hikers/Paddles and Winter Travelers	Sport Hunters and Fisherman	Virtual Visitors
Theme 1: Arctic Flora & Fauna	• Personal contact with uniformed ranger. • High quality VC exhibits, maps, & AV presentation. • Wayside at Airport. • ANHA source materials for sale. • CAKR wayside exhibit in front of hotel. • Information at offsite location - Nome convention & Visitors Bureau, hotels, Alaska Airlines flights.	• Facilitate parti. in WEAR research. • Uniformed ranger in classrooms at every opport. teaching about relevant subj. • Make education kits available on all relevant subjects. • Sponsor field study trips for students in the parklands. • Advise students on science fair projects. • Emphasize biodiversity and interdepend-ence in education programs. • Sponsor teacher wksps on relevant topics.	• Personal contact with uniformed ranger. • Attend and/or conduct village meetings. • Posters at village airports, air taxis, shelter cabins, post office, schools, village offices, & Red Dog. • WEAR newsletter articles. • Personal contact with researchers, SRC or RAC member. • Local programs by NPS and researchers. • Messages & interviews on OTZ, KNOM & messages and video on local TV.	• Personal contact with uniformed ranger in field. • Visit to Nome or Kotzebue Visitor Center, APLIC, FAPLIC, or Beetles. • Bulletin board/wayside at village airstrips. • Posters and written information at air taxis, and on web.	• Personal contact with uniformed ranger in field. • Visit to Nome or Kotzebue Visitor Center, APLIC, FAPLIC, or Beetles. • Bulletin board/wayside at village airstrips. • Posters and written information at air taxis, and on web. • Fish and game regulations available in concise and understandable format.	• Complete websites for all four units integrating CD-ROM into content.

	Visitors to Nome And Kotzebue Visitor Centers	School Students	Local Residents/ Subsistence Users	Hikers/Paddles and Winter Travelers	Sport Hunters and Fisherman	Virtual Visitors
Theme 2: Archeology	• Positive experience-staff & facility • Appreciate significance and extent of WEAR • Awareness of sensitivity of Arctic to human effects. • Sensitivity to subsistence and local Native culture. • Support National Park System and need to protect remove wilderness arks in Alaska.	• Uniformed rangers in classrooms. • Emphasize archeology careers at local career fairs. • Facilitate student participation in research field camps. • Make informational posters available to all teachers. • Create an archeology education kit. • Sponsor events for National Archeology week.	• See Theme 1 above. • Special village visits during National Archeology Week. • Local people work on field archeology crews. • Special tours of field archeology excavations and projects. • Traveling exhibits to villages. • Produce a series of radio and GCI scanner public information announcements	• See Theme 1 above. • Conduct educational seminars in central urban areas for BC guides. • Provide outfitters with site bulletin to dispense to clients before and during trips. • Emphasize ethical behavior in the BC during personal contacts.	• Provide licensed transporters & commercial guides with site bulletins for clients. • Emphasize issues on WEAR website--target BC users specifically. • Uniformed field rangers discuss issues & provide site bulletins during BC contacts. • Post flyers & posters at airport & air taxi terminals. • Construct small, site-specific exhibits on BC ranger stations with racks for site bulletins. (suggest Kelly River, Onion Portage & CAKR stations).	• Complete websites for all four units integrating CD-ROM into content.

	Visitors to Nome And Kotzebue Visitor Centers	School Students	Local Residents/ Subsistence Users	Hikers/Paddles and Winter Travelers	Sport Hunters and Fisherman	Virtual Visitors
Theme 3: People Living on the Landscape	• Personal contact with local Native uniformed ranger. • See Theme 1 above.	• Uniformed rangers in classrooms. • Identify local jobs that support continued connections with land resources. • Use curriculum-based on native ways of knowing. • Participate in ACIS science fair.	• NPS recognition of importance of Native people to identify of WEAR at every opportunity.	• See Theme 1 above. • Produce a video on WEAR's fragile resources & local traditions that BC travelers may view in VC or request on loan before a trip. • Emphasize issues on WEAR website--target BC users specifically.	• Emphasize issues on WEAR website -- target BC users specifically. • Provide licensed transporters & commercial guides with site bulletins for clients.	• Complete websites for all four units integrating CD-ROM into content.

	Visitors to Nome And Kotzebue Visitor Centers	School Students	Local Residents/ Subsistence Users	Hikers/Paddles and Winter Travelers	Sport Hunters and Fisherman	Virtual Visitors
Theme 4: Conserva-tion	• Personal contact with uniformed ranger • High quality VC exhibits & integrate into AV presentation and other media available locally offsite. • Wayside at Airport • ANHA source materials for sale. • Provide Leave-No-Trace Principles of Outdoor Ethics brochures.	• Uniformed rangers in classrooms. • Role model conservation ethics through recycling and community clean-up. • Weave conservation themes into all programs on resources.	• Positive experience with minimal disruption of traditional cultural. • Awareness of regulations, sensitivity o resources, and minimum impact practices. • Understanding how NPS provides subsistence opportunity – prevents sport hunting in CAKR & KOVA. • Understanding and support for NPS. • Sensitivity to outside visitors.	• Develop connections with state and national industry magazines to spotlight WEAR issues and regulations. • Emphasize ethical behavior in the BC during personal contacts, e.g., provide LNT Principles of Outdoor Ethics.	• Official WEAR participation in local Ducks Unlimited activities for dissemination of information and PR. • Provide LNT brochure. • Produce a 1/2 page educa-tional ad in the Arctic Sounder prior to & dur-ing hunting seasons. • Sponsor hunter educ classes. • Include harvest-ing regs & info on WEAR web-site. • Provide licensed transporters & commercial guides with site bulletins for clients. • Post flyers and posters at air-port & air taxi terminals.	• Complete websites for all four units integrating CD-ROM into content.

	Visitors to Nome And Kotzebue Visitor Centers	School Students	Local Residents/ Subsistence Users	Hikers/Paddles and Winter Travelers	Sport Hunters and Fisherman	Virtual Visitors
Theme 5: Wilderness	• Personal contact with uniformed ranger. • High quality VC • Integrate into AV presentation and written bulletins. • Develop a map that shows wilderness boundaries. Stress the vast continuity of wilderness from Chuckchi to Canada Border, GAAR, ANWAR.	• Uniformed rangers in classrooms. • Sponsor teacher workshops on Leave-No-Trace practices. • Organize mock student debates on the value of wilderness. • Host special events for significant anniversaries ex/Wilderness Society est., Leopold birthday.	• See Theme 1 above. • Wilderness <u>always</u> presented as compatible with 10,000 years of occupancy by Native people living on landscape. • Wilderness protects wildlife for continued subsistence way of life. • Wilderness presented as theirs to enjoy. • Provide information on Leave-No-Trace Principles of Outdoor Ethics.	• NPS sponsored classes in urban areas on Leave-No-Trace Principles of Outdoor Ethics, for licensed outfitters and individuals. • Provide LNT brochures in Visitor prior to trip. • Emphasize wilderness ethics in the BC during personal contacts.	• See Conservation theme above for similar context when considering consumptive activities such as fishing.	• Complete websites for all four units integrating CD-ROM into content. • Expand wilderness content and link to Leave-No-Trace and other wilderness sites.

	Visitors to Nome And Kotzebue Visitor Centers	School Students	Local Residents/ Subsistence Users	Hikers/Paddles and Winter Travelers	Sport Hunters and Fisherman	Virtual Visitors
Theme 6: National Park System	• Personal contact with uniformed ranger. • High quality VC exhibits, maps, & AV presentation. • ANHA source materials for sale. • Information at offsite locations.	• Uniformed rangers in classrooms. • Include NPS message in all education kits. • Solicit more programs with history and social studies classes. • Participate in career fairs.	• See Theme 1 above. • Emphasize NPS ANILCA lands as public land available for use with minimal restrictions.	• See Theme 1 above.	• See Theme 1 above.	• Complete websites for all four units integrating CD-ROM into content.

	Visitors to Nome And Kotzebue Visitor Centers	School Students	Local Residents/ Subsistence Users	Hikers/Paddles and Winter Travelers	Sport Hunters and Fisherman	Virtual Visitors
Trip Planning	• Prompt, courteous, and accurate information through telephone, mail, and website.	• Uniformed rangers in classrooms. • Involve students, research assistants in all stages of field studies, including logistics. • Host guest speakers to tell personal stories of travel in the area. • Conduct GPS and orienteering courses at every opportunity.	• Prompt, courteous, and accurate information through telephone, mail, and website. • Maps posted and brochures available at village airports, air taxis, shelter cabins, & village offices. • Topo maps available for sale in Nome and Kotzebue.	• Prompt, courteous, and accurate information through telephone, mail, and website. • Handouts distributed at offsite locations- AKSO, APLIC, FAPLIC, GAAR, other Agencies and Chamber of Commerces. • Literate, accurate, and up-to-date boiler plate letters on file to expedite response. • Provide information to publications, newspapers, and magazines.	• Prompt, courteous, and accurate information through telephone, mail, and website. • Handouts distributes at offsite locations-- AKSO, APLIC, FAPLIC, GAAR, other Agencies and Chamber of Commerces. • Literate, accurate, and up-to-date boiler plate letters on file to expedite response. • Provide information to publications, newspapers and magazines.	• Provide better method way for web users to interact with WEAR staff.

	Visitors to Nome And Kotzebue Visitor Centers	School Students	Local Residents/ Subsistence Users	Hikers/Paddles and Winter Travelers	Sport Hunters and Fisherman	Virtual Visitors
Safety	• Safety inspection of facilities & immediate correction of any deficiencies.	• Uniformed ranger in classrooms. • Conduct safety and survival classes at summer camps. • Develop staff to teach gun safety courses.	• See Trip Planning above. • Ranger patrols contacting users and providing assistance to boaters & snowmachines. • Present GPS training at villages. • Work collaboratively with local SAR groups and aid in searches. • Assist with trailstaking within boundary. • Maintain emergency shelter cabins with emergency gear/rations.	• See Trip Planning above. • Ranger patrols contacting users. • Work collaboratively with air taxi operators. • Integrate safety messages into all publications emphasizing self-sufficiency. • Provide information about lack of communication and use of aircraft frequency for emergency.	• See Trip Planning above. • Ranger patrols contacting users. • Work collaboratively with air taxi operators. • Integrate safety messages into all publications emphasizing self-sufficiency. • Provide information about lack of communication and use of aircraft frequency for emergency.	• Integrate safety messages throughout website emphasizing the need for self-sufficiency by anyone planning a visit.
Other	• Provide full ADA accessibility & provide for visually & hearing					

PLANNING TEAM & CONSULTANTS

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APPENDIX

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